

**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 21, 2021**  
Choir Director: Wash King

**22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 5 (9<sup>th</sup> of Luke).**  
**The Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple**

*Glory Be to Jesus Christ!*

*Glory Be Forever!*

**Services:**

Sunday, November 21 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos  
Thursday, November 25 9:30 AM – Thanksgiving Moleiben  
Sunday, November 28 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parastas  
In Memory of Daniel Polansky offered by Gloria Bench  
In Memory of Benjamin Macalush offered by the Herbert Family  
In Memory of Janet Jupin offered by her Family  
In Memory of John Fedora offered by Barbara Faenza & Family  
In Memory of Nicholas "Kiki" Teno offered by wife, Martha and Family  
Sunday, December 5 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

**Prayer List:**

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,  
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birocik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan,  
Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins,  
John King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, MaryAnn & Paul Macenka, Mary  
Maholick, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, Mary  
Simone, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky,  
Russell Yallas, & 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 21)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **David Bogosh & Family** offered by Ted Bogosh  
Altar Candles... In memory of **Husband, Andrew Chmel** offered by Stephanie Chmel  
Eternal Lamp... In memory **Lillian Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh  
Vigil Crosses... In memory of **Mary & Andrew Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh  
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of **Julia Forte** offered by Ted Bogosh  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Husband, Frank Forte** offered by Julia Forte

Candles (November 25-Thanksgiving)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the Health of **Ted Bogosh** offered by Millie O'Shura  
Altar Candles... For the Health of **Fr. James Weremedic** offered by Ted Bogosh  
Eternal Lamp... In memory **John & Rose Bench** offered by Gloria Bench & Family  
Vigil Crosses... For the Health of **Matushka Lisa Weremedic** offered by Ted Bogosh  
7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **John Bench, Jr.** offered by Gloria Bench  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

**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, 29- Mat. Lovey Ropitsky

**November Wedding Anniversary:** 13-Walter & Louise Rosahac

Financials 11/14/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 44 - Altar Candles 35 - Offerings 266 – Non-Envelope 151 - Holy Days 15 – Donations 500 = Total \$1,011.00. Poinsettias 30.

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

### CONFESSION

Confessions have resumed with minor modifications. Please call the rectory at 570-645-2772 and talk to Father James for a reservation. Call between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Individual schedule times will be spread out during the week. Husband and wife can be scheduled together. Anyone wanting to have a confession, but has concerns of COVID-19, should contact Father James to make the appropriate accommodations.

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.  
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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## SAINT MERCURIUS: A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

**T**he military played a major role in the life of people of the first century. Armies affected every person and every aspect of life in those years. It is no wonder, then, that Saint Paul in writing to the faithful of Ephesus speaks in military terms and bids them to fight evil as in a battle.

St. Paul writes: "My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might . . . Take unto yourselves the whole armor of God . . . Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness . . . Above all, taking the shield of faith . . . and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God . . ." The great Apostle points to the foes of salvation, Satan and his wiles, endlessly attacking the believer. Certainly his words have relevance in our day as well. We are confronted each day by the secular forces of our materialistic culture. We, too, must arm ourselves as if in battle!

A number of soldiers of the early centuries of the Church, upon hearing the Gospel of Christ and seeing the virtuous lives of believers, embraced the Christian faith. Some did so secretly. One such soldier is the saint and martyr MERCURIUS. He was a warrior in the mighty Roman Army of the third century, who successfully fought the barbarians and became a great hero of the day. In fact, he is said to have been named a general by Emperor Decius. But some envious officers found out that he was a Christian and betrayed him to the emperor. Mercurius refused to deny his faith in Christ and to pray to the pagan gods of the Romans. He was martyred around the year 253.

22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5. The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

### **Troparion — Tone 4**

Today is the prelude of the good will of God, / of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. / The Virgin appears in the temple of God, / in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. / Let us rejoice / and sing to her: / "Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."

### **Kontakion — Tone 4**

The most pure Temple of the Savior; / the precious Chamber and Virgin; / the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, / is presented today to the house of the Lord. / She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, / therefore, the angels of God praise her: / "Truly this woman is the abode of heaven."

### **Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle)**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

### **Hebrews 9:1-7 (Epistle, Theotokos)**

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it was the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

### **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."

## **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Gospel, Theotokos)**

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!"

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry. The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.