

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, October 2, 2022
Choir Director: Wash King

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (2nd of Luke)

Glory Be to Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Services:

Sunday, Oct. 2	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Hour & Parish Council Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 8	5:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, Oct. 9	8:30 AM – Service for the Reception of Michael Birosik
Sunday, Oct. 9	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour
Saturday, Oct. 15	5:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, Oct. 16	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour
Saturday, Oct. 22	5:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, Oct. 23	8:30 AM – Service for the Reception of Kaitlyn Dmytrow
Sunday, Oct. 23	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour
Saturday, Oct. 29	5:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, Oct. 30	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy and Parastas followed by Fellowship Hour

We WELCOME all our visitors today! We want to let you know that 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:

Fr. Andrew Diehl, Matushka Lisa Weremedic
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birosik, Clark Andrew Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Danielle Bogosh, Stephanie Chmel, Irene Davis, Ilene Devine, Nadine Fegley, Julia Forte, Karen Harkins, Nancy King, Russell King, Michael Kulick, John & Olga Kushnir, Mary Maholick, Anna Marie Mantey, Mildred O'Shura, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Olga Sidoriak, 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 Fr. 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 (October 2)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **Mickey King** offered by Gary Harahuess

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 of **Mother, Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Sister, Justine Yurchak** offered by brother, Gary Harahuess

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory of **Husband, Andrew Chmel** offered by Stephanie Chmel

October Birthdays: 3- Fr. James Weremedic, 5- Barbara Teno, 7- Michael Harahus, 10- Andrew Balliet, 20- Martha Stafiniak, 26- Peggy Lampman, 27- Fr. Paul Ropitsky, 30- John Lampman.

October Anniversaries: 1- Odess & Claire Remington, 3- John & Mary Eveturshick, 22- Chris & Marie Kalavritinos

October is clergy appreciation month, and the 2nd Sunday, October 9 is nationally recognized as Pastor Appreciation Day. The role of the priest is not to make people happy; it is to make them Holy. For Clergy Appreciation Month, the faithful of the parish can show their appreciation by attending the services regularly and by sending a card and stating five things you appreciate about your priest, his Matushka and family.

Financials 9/25/22: Operating Acct: Candles 52 - Altar Candles 90 - Offerings 444

Non-Envelope 150 - Holy Days 55 - Donations 150 = Total \$941.00.

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

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

October 2 Lena Berezniak

October 9 John Evetushick

October 16 Russell King

October 23 Helen King

October 30 Open

There is a sign-up sheet for **Fellowship Hour** in the vestibule if you would like to host.

Upcoming Event – Yard Sale Saturday, October 8, 2022 – (9 AM to 2 PM)

Items can be dropped off Monday to Friday (1 PM to 4 PM) in the church basement

Or by calling Helen King at 570-645-9484

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.

A SYMBOL WITH SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Living as we do in a country where we have always been free to practice our faith openly, it is sometimes difficult for us to relate to the conditions that existed for the members of the early Church. The pagan rulers of the ancient Roman empire were relentless in their attempt to destroy Christianity. Anyone bold enough to profess their belief in Jesus Christ faced certain torture, humiliation and death. The initial chapters of Church History are filled with stories of the brave people who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives for Christ.

Since their survival was largely dependent upon secrecy, the early Christians began to identify themselves with a **SIMPLE MARKING** which enabled fellow Christians to recognize one another, yet did nothing to arouse the suspicions of the Roman authorities. This symbol was the **FISH**. A fish traced in the ground may have indicated a place where other Christians were to meet for worship. Drawing a fish in the dust while conversing with strangers would quickly show if one were in the company of "friend or foe."

Why did the 2nd century Christians select a fish as their symbol? When the great theological truth - Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour - was written in it's original Greek form, they noticed that the first initials formed the word "ichthus." This happens to be the Greek word for fish! It not only showed who the early Christians were, but more importantly, what they believed. A simple drawing had been transformed into something full of spiritual significance.

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 7 Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia. Bl. Andrew, Fool-for-Christ, at Constantinople. Repose of Rt. Blv. Princess Anna of Kashin. Ven. Cassian of Uglich. Martyrs David and Constantine, Princes of Georgia. Righteous Warrior Theodore Ushakov.

Hieromartyr Cyprian, Virgin Martyr Justina, and Martyr Theoctistus, of Nicomedia

Troparion — Tone 4 - By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / you became a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, / you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, / you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. / Hieromartyr Cyprian, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Troparion — Tone 4 - You abandoned the darkness of impiety, becoming a beacon of truth, O Cyprian; / you were illustrious as a pastor; / you were glorified in contest. / O venerable Father, intercede with the Creator for us, together with the divinely-wise Justina.

Troparion — Tone 4 - Your lamb Justina calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / "I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You, / and I died so that I might live with You. / Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love." / Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful.

Kontakion — Tone 1 - Turning from the art of sorcery, O divinely-wise one, / you were shown forth as a skillful healer for the world, O divine Cyprian, / along with Justina, you grant healing to those who honor you; / pray to the Master Who loves mankind that He may save our souls.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 (Epistle)

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

But in all things, we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Luke 6:31-36 (Gospel)

And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Saint Cyprian was a pagan and a native of Antioch. From his early childhood his misguided parents dedicated him to the service of the pagan gods. From the age seven until he was thirty, Cyprian studied at the leading centers of paganism: on Mount Olympus; in the cities of Argos and Tauropolis; in the Egyptian city of Memphis; and at Babylon. Once he attained eminent wisdom in pagan philosophy and the sorcerer's craft, he was initiated into the pagan priesthood on Mount Olympus. Having discovered great power by summoning unclean spirits, he beheld the Prince of Darkness himself, speaking with him and receiving from him a host of demons to serve him.

After returning to Antioch, Cyprian was revered by the pagans as a prominent pagan priest, amazing people with his ability to cast spells, to summon pestilence and plagues, and to conjure up the dead. He brought many people to ruin, teaching them to serve the demons, and how to cast magic spells.

The holy virgin Justina lived in Antioch. After turning her own father and mother away from the error of paganism and leading them to faith in Christ, she dedicated herself to the Heavenly Bridegroom and spent her time in fasting and prayer. When the young man Aglaidas (Αγλαΐδας or Αγλαΐος) proposed marriage to her, the saint refused, for she wished to remain a virgin. Aglaidas sought Cyprian's help. He said that he would arrange for Justina's heart to become filled with lust for the young man. No matter what Cyprian tried, he accomplished nothing, since the Saint overcame all the wiles of the devil by prayer and fasting.

Cyprian sent an unclean spirit to attack the holy virgin, and to arouse carnal passions in her, but she overcame them by the power of the Sign of the Cross, and by fervent prayer to the Lord.

Even though one of the demons, and Cyprian himself, assumed various guises by the power of sorcery, they were unable to influence Saint Justina, who was guarded by her firm faith in Christ. All the spells were dissipated, and the demons fled at the mention of Justina's name.

Cyprian, in his rage, sent down pestilence and plague upon Justina's family and upon the entire city, but this was thwarted by her prayer. The sorcerer brought tribulation not only upon Justina and her family, but upon the entire city as well. Rumors spread that the city was being punished because Justina would not wed Aglaidas. Several people went to her and demanded that she marry Aglaidas so that Cyprian would not punish them with more afflictions. Justina calmed them and assured them that soon the misfortunes which Cyprian caused with the help of the demons would end. Saint Justina prayed to God, the power of the demons was destroyed, and everyone was healed of their illnesses and afflictions.

People began to praise Christ, and to mock Cyprian and his sorcery. Convinced that the devil was powerless against the Sign of the Cross, and trembled at the name of Christ, Cyprian came to his senses and realized that he had been corrupted by becoming a sorcerer, and participating in every sort of wickedness, doing harm to others and deceiving them. He killed many with his spells and potions, and he murdered many men and women as sacrificial offerings to the demons. He was already a partaker of the portion of the demons, and if he had died at that moment, he would have been cast into the depths of Hell. The Lord, however, in His infinite compassion, saved him from the abyss.

Saint Cyprian saw that the devil whom he served was afraid of Christ. The Evil One admitted that he was unable to conquer the maiden because he was afraid of "a certain sign" upon her.

"If you take fright at even the mere shadow of the Cross and if the mere name of Christ makes you tremble," said Cyprian, "then what will you do when Christ Himself stands before you?"

The devil then threw himself upon the pagan priest and attempted to beat and strangle him. For the first time, Saint Cyprian tested the power of the Sign of the Cross and the name of Christ, guarding himself from the fury of the Enemy. Afterward, he went to the local bishop Anthimos in profound repentance, and threw all of his books into the flames. The very next day, he went into the church, and did not want to leave it, even though he had not yet been baptized.

By his efforts to follow after righteousness, Saint Cyprian understood the great power of faith in Christ, making up for more than thirty years of service to Satan. Seven days after his Baptism he was tonsured as a reader, on the twelfth day, subdeacon, on the thirtieth, deacon. After a year, he was ordained as a priest. Shortly after this, Saint Cyprian was elevated to the rank of bishop.

Saint Cyprian converted so many pagans to Christ that in his diocese no one was left to offer sacrifice to idols, and the pagan temples fell into disuse. Saint Justina withdrew to a monastery and was chosen as its Superior.

During the persecution against Christians under Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Cyprian and Saint Justina were arrested and brought to Nicomedia, where after horrible tortures they were beheaded with the sword. Saint Cyprian, fearful that the holy virgin's courage might falter if she saw him put to death, asked for time to pray. Saint Justina inclined her neck and was beheaded first.

After seeing the torments of Saint Justina, a soldier named Theoktistos fell at Cyprian's feet and declared himself a Christian, and he was beheaded with them.

The Hieromartyr Cyprian, the Virgin Martyr Justina, and the Martyr Theoktistos suffered for Christ at Nicomedia in the year 304.

The relics of Saints Cyprian and Justina are to be found in various places around the world. One of Saint Cyprian's feet is at Iviron Monastery on Mount Athos. A piece of Saint Cyprian's skull is in the church named for these Saints at Menikos Nicosia. A small piece of Saint Justina's skull is there as well. Fragments of the Holy Relics of Saints Cyprian and Justina are in the Monastery which is dedicated to them at Phylé, Attica. The head of Saint Justina is located in the Monastery of Panagia Panachrantou (the All-Holy Theotokos) on the Greek island of Andros. Part of the hand of Saint Cyprian is located in the Zlătari church (Calea Victoriei 14, Bucharest Romania).