

**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 3, 2021**  
Choir Director: Wash King

**15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – TONE 6 (2nd of Luke). Hieromartyr  
Dionysius (Denis) the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens**

Prokeimenon-Tone 6 – O Lord Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!

*Glory Be to Jesus Christ!*

*Glory Be Forever!*

**Services:**

Sunday, October 3           9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, October 10       9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, October 17       9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, October 24       9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy – followed by Parastas

At our last Parish Council Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, Claire Remington, president, appointed our Nominating Committee comprised of: Fr. James, Rector, Lynn Sharpe, Vice-President, and Mat. Lisa Weremedic, Recording Secretary. Parishioners wishing to serve on council as an officer or trustee can contact a member of the nominating committee. Nominations will be accepted until October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled to be on Sunday, November 14, 2021 following the Divine Liturgy.

**ARTICLE FIVE: THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Section 9. Nominating Committee**

At least one month before the annual meeting of the Parish, the Rector and Council President shall appoint a Nominating Committee comprised of the Rector, Vice-President, and Recording Secretary.

- a) **Eligibility for Nomination.** To be qualified for election to the Parish Council, a candidate must:
- i) be 21 years of age or over;
  - ii) be a voting member of the Parish for at least two years;
  - iii) have fulfilled the canonical requirements of the Faith, as verified by the Rector; and

- iv) be a person of the Church in conduct and speech (Standards are obviously higher for those who choose to serve in a leadership capacity)
- b) **Nominees.** The Nominating Committee shall have more than the number of vacancies to be filled.
  - i) Must indicate their willingness to serve if elected
  - ii) Must give permission for a free background check as required by the state of Pennsylvania
- c) **Nominating Committee Report** shall be provided to the Council President and read to the Parish Council prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. The approved report shall be included in the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting.
- d) **No Nominations from the Floor.** No additional nominations may be made from the floor of the annual Parish Meeting in order to avoid embarrassing anyone who may not meet the requirements due to background check laws.

**Prayer List:**

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic,  
Andrew Balliet, Michael Birocik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Raymond Danchak, 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, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

**INDOOR-OUTDOOR YARD SALE**  
**Saturday, October 9 – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
**Please bring your donations to the church basement**

**Mon to Fri. October 4-8 .....1-4 pm**

**NO CLOTHING OR SHOES PLEASE!**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!! Call Helen King 570-546-9484**

**October Birthdays:** Fr. James Weremedic, 5- Barbara Teno, 7- Michael Harahus, 10- Andrew Balliet, 18- John King, 20- Martha Stafiniak, 26- Peggy Lampman, 27- Fr. Paul Ropitsky, 30- John Lampman

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

~::~ THE ILLUMINATOR OF THE ARMENIANS ~::~

**T**he history of Christianity in Armenia can be traced back to Apostolic times. Holy Tradition tells us that the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew first preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ there. The man largely credited with establishing the Church in this pagan nation, however, is depicted on today's cover: **ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR**. Gregory was born into a noble family, but received his formal education far from the palaces of Armenia. He studied in Caesarea in the region of Cappadocia, where he embraced Christianity.

After the death of his wife, Gregory returned to Armenia with his two sons. While serving in the government of the pagan King Tiridates, Gregory actively served Christ as well, winning scores of converts for his Savior. Upon discovering the missionary labors of Gregory, the enraged king had him thrown into a deep pit, filled with poisonous reptiles. Miraculously, Gregory was protected by God in this deadly environment for 14 years! Realizing the wickedness of his ways, King Tiridates released Gregory. The repentant ruler was baptized by his former prisoner and arranged for him to return to Caesarea to be consecrated as "Bishop of Armenia."

Upon returning to his homeland, St. Gregory, with the assistance of the king, set about the task of converting the entire country to Christianity. Through his untiring efforts, Armenia became the first nation to proclaim the Christian faith as the official religion of the people. After enlightening an entire land about Jesus Christ, St. Gregory died in 332 A.D.

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

SAINT GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR

The Person who brought the Light of Christianity to  
the Armenian People

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 (October 3)

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **Olga Hebda** offered by Russell & Geri King

Altar Candles... In memory of **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Marion Pickenheim** offered by William Yelsh

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Friends

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the Health of **John King** offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In memory of **Husband, Frank Forte** offered by Julia Forte

### 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.

Financials 9/26/21: *Operating Acct:* Candles 43 - Altar Candles 20 - Offerings 393 – Non-Envelope 152.10 - Holy Days 15 – Donations 100 = Total \$723.10. – Building Fund 0, Charity 0. Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – Thank you!

Please use Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon.

When you shop for gifts or merchandise at ***smile.amazon.com***, Amazon Smile will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to St. Mary's Orthodox Church at no cost to you!

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.

### Silent Prayer before reading the Holy Scripture:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

## 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 (Epistle)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed –always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

So, then death is working in us, but life in you.

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus, will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

## 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.

## Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens

**Troparion — Tone 4** - Having learned goodness and maintaining continence in all things, / you were arrayed with a good conscience as befits a priest. / From the chosen Vessel you drew ineffable mysteries; / you kept the faith, and finished a course equal to His. / Bishop martyr Dionysius, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

**Kontakion — Tone 8** - As a disciple of the apostle caught up to the third heaven, / you spiritually entered the gate of heaven, Dionysius. / You were enriched with understanding of ineffable mysteries / and enlightened those who sat in the darkness of ignorance. / Therefore, we cry to you: Rejoice, universal Father!

Saint Dionysius lived originally in the city of Athens. He was raised there and received a classical Greek education. He then went to Egypt, where he studied astronomy at the city of Heliopolis. It was in Heliopolis, along with his friend Apolophonos where he witnessed the solar eclipse that occurred at the moment of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ by Crucifixion. "Either the Creator of all the world now suffers, or this visible world is coming to an end," Dionysius said. Upon his return to Athens from Egypt, he was chosen to be a member of the Areopagus Council (Athenian high court).

When the holy Apostle Paul preached at the place on the Hill of Ares (Acts 17:16-34), Dionysius accepted his salvific proclamation and became a Christian. For three years Saint Dionysius remained a companion of the holy Apostle Paul in preaching the Word of God. Later on, the Apostle Paul selected him as bishop of the city of Athens. And in the year 57 Saint Dionysius was present at the repose of the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the lifetime of the Mother of God, Saint Dionysius had journeyed from Athens to Jerusalem to meet Her. He wrote to his teacher the Apostle Paul: "I witness by God, that besides the very God Himself, there is nothing else filled with such divine power and grace. No one can fully comprehend what I saw. I confess before God: when I was with John, who shone among the Apostles like the sun in the sky, when I was brought before the countenance of the Most Holy Virgin, I experienced an inexpressible sensation. Before me gleamed a sort of divine radiance which transfixed my spirit. I perceived the fragrance of indescribable aromas and was filled with such delight that my very body became faint, and my spirit could hardly endure these signs and marks of eternal majesty and heavenly power. The grace from her overwhelmed my heart and shook my very spirit. If I did not have in mind your instruction, I should have mistaken Her for the very God. It is impossible to stand before greater blessedness than this which I beheld."

After the death of the Apostle Paul, Saint Dionysius wanted to continue with his work, and therefore went off preaching in the West, accompanied by the Presbyter Rusticus and Deacon Eleutherius. They converted many to Christ at Rome, and then in Germany, and then in Spain. In Gaul, during a persecution against Christians by the pagan authorities, all three confessors were arrested and thrown into prison. By night Saint Dionysius celebrated the Divine Liturgy with angels of the Lord. In the morning the martyrs were beheaded. According to an old tradition, Saint Dionysius took up his head, proceeded with it to the church and fell down dead there. A pious woman named Catulla buried the relics of the saint.

The writings of Saint Dionysius the Areopagite hold great significance for the Orthodox Church. Four books of his have survived to the present day:

*On the Celestial Hierarchy, On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy, On the Names of God, On Mystical Theology.*

*In additional, there are ten letters to various people.*

The book *On the Celestial Hierarchies* was written actually in one of the countries of Western Europe, where Saint Dionysius was preaching. In it he speaks of the Christian teaching about the angelic world. The angelic (or Celestial-Heavenly) hierarchy comprises the nine angelic Ranks:

Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, Angels.

The account of the Synaxis of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven is located under November 8.

The purpose of the divinely-established Angelic Hierarchy is the ascent towards godliness through purification, enlightenment and perfection. The highest ranks are bearers of divine light and divine life for the lower ranks. And not only are the sentient, bodiless angelic hosts included in the spiritual light-bearing hierarchy, but also the human race, created anew and sanctified in the Church of Christ.

The book of Saint Dionysius *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchies* is a continuation of his book *On the Celestial Hierarchies*. The Church of Christ, like the Angelic ranks, in its universal service is set upon the foundation of priestly principles established by God.

In the earthly world, for the children of the Church, divine grace comes down indescribably in the holy Mysteries of the Church, which are spiritual in nature, though perceptible to the senses in form. Few, even among the holy ascetics, were able to behold with their earthly eyes the fiery vision of the Holy Mysteries of God. But outside of the Church's sacraments, outside of Baptism and the Eucharist, the light-bearing saving grace of God is not found, neither is divine knowledge nor theosis (deification).

The book *On the Names of God* expounds upon the way of divine knowledge through a progression of the Divine Names.

Saint Dionysius' book *On Mystical Theology* also sets forth the teaching about divine knowledge. The theology of the Orthodox Church is totally based upon experience of divine knowledge. In order to know God it is necessary to be in proximity to Him, to have come near to Him in some measure, so as to attain communion with God and deification (theosis). This condition is accomplished through prayer. This is not because prayer in itself brings us close to the incomprehensible God, but rather that the purity of heart in true prayer brings us closer to God.

Saint Demetrius of Rostov says that the Hieromartyr Dionysius was beheaded in Athens, and that many miracles were worked at his grave.