



## AN ICON OF THE SIGN

**A**mong the ancient and most revered icons of the Church are those which depict the Holy Virgin and Child Jesus. These, in turn, are divided into a number of categories, and among them are those known by the term "**Icon of the Sign.**"

Such icons show the Mother of God in frontal view, with her arms upraised in the ancient gesture of prayer, and with Christ depicted on her chest, again in frontal view. Cherubims and Serafims are often included in the icon, indicating that the Mother of God is "*more honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Serafim . . .*"

It is to the Old Testament and the prophecy of Isaiah that one must turn for an understanding of the name of such icons. The Prophet Isaiah wrote: "*Therefore, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*" And so the Virgin Mother with her Child in her bosom is the "sign" of the Incarnation, of God becoming Man to save him from sin and death. This, of course, is the very essence of the Christian faith, and it is no wonder, then, that such icons are given a prominent place in the church building.

Students of iconography also like to speak of these icons as images of the Church, which brings salvation through Christ to humankind, as the Holy Virgin confined in her womb the unconfined Lord. So we have this mystery of the Church as the Body of Christ.

The Holy Bible refers to the Virgin Mother as "full of grace," and "blessed among women." The Church has given her a special place among the Saints of God and the creatures of the earth. This special veneration and esteem is given her precisely because of her relationship to Jesus Christ. She is His mother. The Church always approaches her with this special relationship in mind. Remember, the Church honors the mother because of the Son.

**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: Matushka Lisa Weremedic

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

Choir Director: Wash King  
Reader Epistle: Edward Pierson

13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 4.

**Services:**

Sunday, Sept 10	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Wed, Sept. 13	5:00 PM – Great Vespers with Litya
Thursday, Sept 14	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy ( <b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> )
Saturday, Sept. 16	4:30 PM – Parastas, Martha Teno, ...
Saturday, Sept. 16	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Sept 17	8:45 AM – Start of Church School ( <b>Please notify Barbara Birosik to enroll your children</b> )
Sunday, Sept 17	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Spaghetti Dinner

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 parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish 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  
Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak, Elizabeth Warcholak, 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.

**Nominations for Church Council and Officers are now open. The Diocese requires that we comply with term limits. Please see Rector Father James, Vice-President Anastasia (Nancy) Babinetz or Recording Secretary Barbara Birosik if you are willing to serve on our Parish Council. See today's insert for additional information.**

*We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Theodore Bogosh, Jr.  
Who fell asleep in the Lord 9/2/2023! Memory Eternal!*

*We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Nancy Ann Lorchak  
Who fell asleep in the Lord 9/2/2023! Memory Eternal!*

**Candles (September 10)**

7-day Vigils-Altar... In memory of **Mary & Albert Yelsh** offered by William Yelsh  
Altar Candles... In memory of **Pavlick family** offered by Alice "Roshac" Styer  
Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Bybel family  
7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Theodore Scarloss** offered by Michael & Natalie Bolinsky

**Candles (September 14 - Holy Cross)**

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Andrew Chmel** offered by Stephanie Chmel  
Altar Candles... In memory of **Stephen Bogosh** offered by Bogosh family  
Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Andrew & Mary Bybel** offered by family members  
Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak  
Cross Flowers...In Memory of **Olga Hebda** offered by friends

**September Birthdays:** 14- Mat. Lisa Weremedic, 18- Adam Balliet, 20- **Joseph Macenka (100)**  
30- Eleanor Sidoriak

**September Anniversaries:** 17- John & Ann Yaroma, 20- Michael & Wendy Kulick

Financials 8/27/2023: *Operating Acct:* Weekly Envelopes \$367, Non-envelope \$254, Holy Day \$48,  
Altar Candles \$130, Candles \$182, Cemetery \$110, Donations \$25

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:**

September 3 John Evetushick      September 10 Open      September 17 Spaghetti Dinner  
September 24 Michael Tatusko      October 1 John Evetushick

**Spaghetti Dinner is on September 17, 2023**

See Mat. Lisa Weremedic or call the Rectory, (570) 645-2772 for Tickets.

**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.**

**Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM)** was created by the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops to help parishes, priests, parents, and other caring adults help young people find joy in the Orthodox faith by encountering Christ, embodying the Church, and engaging the world in His name. September 24, 2023 has been designated as Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministry Awareness Sunday. We invite everyone to learn about OYM's ministry, sign up for their newsletter, and consider supporting them by visiting [www.TheOYM.org](http://www.TheOYM.org). **See today's insert for additional information.**

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 5 Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.**

**Sunday before Elevation.** Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, at Nicomedia. Ven. Paul the Obedient, of the Kiev Caves. Bl. Prince Andrew, in monasticism Joasaph, of Kubensk. Holy Apostles of the 70 Apelles, Luke, and Clement. Martyr Barypsabas in Dalmatia. Rt. Blv. Pulcheria, the Empress of the Greeks. Ss. Peter and Paul, Bishops of Nicaea.

**Tone 4 Troparion (Feast)**

Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing.// By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

**Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)**

By your nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you:// “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

**2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Epistle)**

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

**Silent Prayer before the Gospel:**

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.

**Matthew 22:1-14 (Gospel)**

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”



# Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Youth & Young Adult Awareness Sunday

September 24, 2023



Will you help us encourage young people to “stay in the lake”?

Approximately 60% of youth from Christian homes leave the Church as adults. But young people do stay rooted in the Orthodox church when they are inspired to do so.

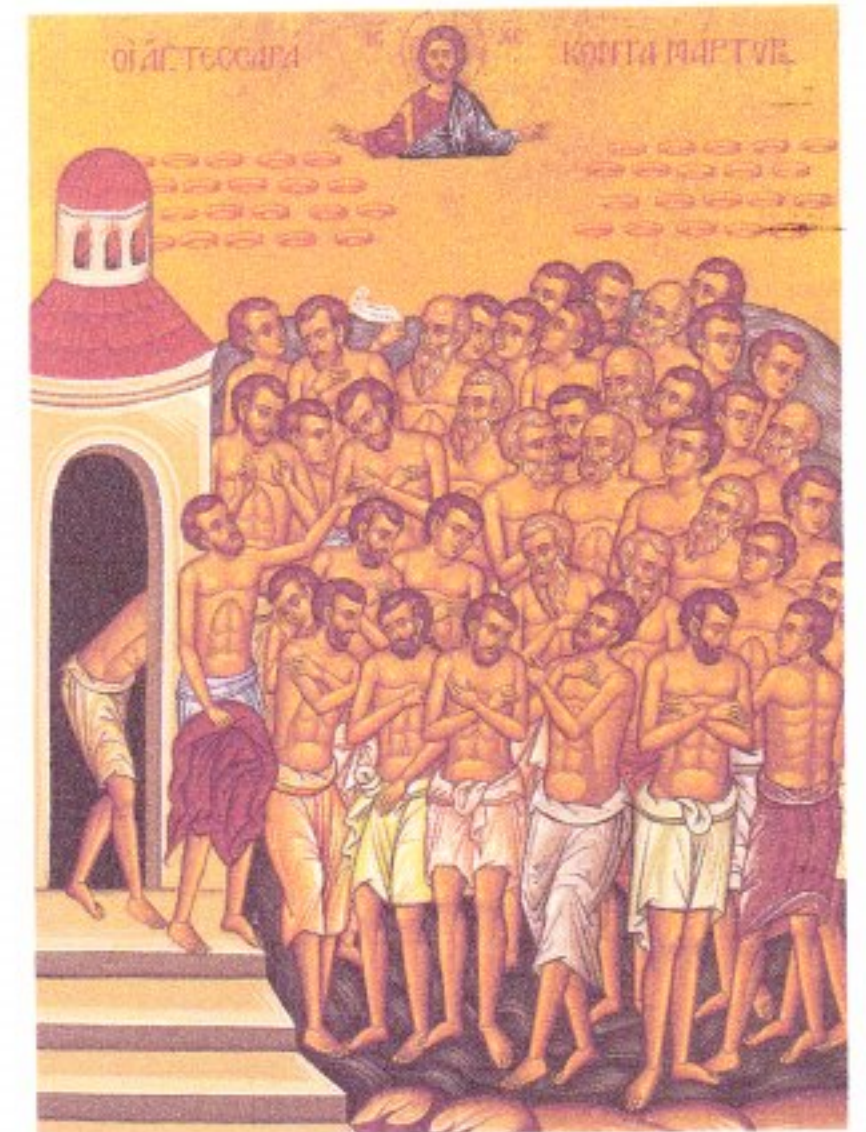
*This is our mission.*

Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM) works to pass on a faith where every young person **encounters** Christ, **embodies** the Church, and **engages the world** in His name.

Just as the 40 Martyrs of Sebaste sacrificed their lives for Christ by staying together in the freezing lake, OYM helps inspire young people to stay rooted in the body of Christ.

OYM comes alongside parishes to help youth and young adults become fully engaged in the life of the Church through transformative retreats, podcasts and videos, and other ministry resources.

We invite you to connect with us by subscribing to our newsletter at: [www.TheOYM.org/newsletter](http://www.TheOYM.org/newsletter)



OYM Patron Saints  
40 Martyrs of Sebaste

And we humbly ask for your support to help empower young people in the Orthodox faith. Donations can be made:

1. Online at: [www.TheOYM.org/donate](http://www.TheOYM.org/donate)      3. Or scan below

2. By check to:

Orthodox Youth Ministries  
6218 Georgia Ave NW, Suite 1-657  
Washington, DC 20011



*OYM is 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry and is an agency of the  
Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.*

**Learn more at:**



[www.theOYM.org](http://www.theOYM.org)



[@TheOYMofficial](https://www.facebook.com/TheOYMofficial)

**Nominations for Church Council and Officers are now open. The Diocese requires that we comply with term limits. Please see Rector Father James, Vice-President Anastasia (Nancy) Babinetz or Recording Secretary Barbara Birosik if you are willing to serve on our Parish Council.** The Parish Council to be elected are officers; Financial Secretary, President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees; (1) trustee for every twenty-five (25) voting church member and no more than (3) trustees. All shall be elected for a term of one year. Also, the election of three (3) Auditors for a one-year term and the election lay delegates to the Diocesan Assembly on January 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Harrisburg.

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**ARTICLE TWO: PARISHIONERS Section 1. Parishioners:** Parishioners are those who by virtue of their Baptism and Chrismation as Orthodox Christians are members of the Body of Christ. A parishioner is expected to live a life in conformance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church.

- a) Any person desiring to become a parishioner of the Parish shall so inform the Rector, and after fulfilling all conditions of the Parish for said membership, shall be referred to the financial secretary, and shall then be placed on the Parish Census.
- b) Duties and responsibilities of every parishioner:
  - i) Every parishioner is a steward of the Church, and as such should offer his or her time, talent, finances, and services as the need arises in the Parish.
  - ii) All parishioners, as Orthodox Christians shall govern their lives and activities in accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church;
  - iii) Regularly attend religious services
  - iv) Assume an obligation for the financial support of the Orthodox Church in America, the Diocese, and the Parish. A record of contributions (tithing/assessment/donations) is sent to parishioners each year by the end of January.
  - v) Fulfill their financial obligations as may be established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and Parish meeting. Such obligations shall be paid in full by the end of September of the current year.

**Section 2. Voting Member:** A voting member is a parishioner who has the privilege of attending, being counted when determining the number required for a quorum, taking part in discussion, and voting at any annual or special parish meeting. A voting member may also have the privilege of being elected as a member of the Parish Council if he or she possesses the appropriate gifts and disposition for working with others. A voting member is "in good standing" if he or she:

- a) Is an Orthodox Christian;
- b) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- c) Partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in this Parish regularly;
- d) Has been a practicing Orthodox Christian and a parishioner of this Parish for at least one (1) year.
- e) "Good standing" is determined by the Rector and financial secretary.

#### **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

- 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.



November 27, 2019

Resolution No. 1956

Diocesan Clergy & Faithful,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be! As we continue to strive for parish health, we need to embrace healthy change. A quote from Alcoholics Anonymous is, "If you always do what you've always done, you always get what you've always gotten." The parishes of our Diocese, as well as others that are maintaining their numbers or showing growth embrace healthy changes in parish leadership, term limits, rotation of positions, and limitations on immediate family serving concurrently. When one person serves too long on the parish council, especially as council chair or treasurer it inevitably undermines healthy parishes, healthy parish councils, and restricts healthy dialogue beneficial to parish health and growth. The parish priest is the only permanent member of the parish council.

Therefore, as you prepare for your Annual Meetings, please inform your Nominating Committee that no one may be reelected to parish council who has been on the council for more than 6 (six) consecutive years. (*Parish council members need a sabbatical from administrative responsibilities, so that they may simply come and pray.*) Any parish that would not have 50% of their council remaining, may rotate off 1/3 of their members each of the coming three years. Parishes which have a rotation of officers and term limits are healthier than those which lack new faces on the council. As you will remember from our parish council workshop with Church Mutual, on "Officers and Directors Coverage," TERM LIMITS and ROTATION OF OFFICERS is considered "Best Practices." Additionally, immediate family members and no more than two blood relatives may serve simultaneously on parish council. All those nominated must be in good standing with the Church through *regular* Confession and Communion, as determined by the Rector prior to the Annual Meeting. Finally, according to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America and the Diocesan Bylaws, no one may simultaneously hold two positions on the parish council.

Hopefully, as leadership changes, there will be continuity with healthy practices already in place and new ideas welcomed, the parishes will discover opportunities to growth and health. Have a Blessed and Healthy Thanksgiving.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania  
CC: Diocesan Clergy



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Diocesan Treasurer: Mark Linnehan \* [treasurer@doepa.org](mailto:treasurer@doepa.org)

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine