

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
Choir Director: Wash King

Sunday, September 20, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

At this time, we are utilizing up to 50% capacity in the church, so the first 75 people who arrive at the church to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday will be permitted to attend the service. At the candle stand will be a sign-in sheet that you must sign so we know who is attending the service. There is no pressure or expectation to attend services during this period of COVID-19. Remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing of six feet except for immediate family members. These procedures and guidelines are in effect not only to protect ourselves but also to protect one another. It is essential that we know who is attending the Divine Liturgy in the event that a "notice of infection" is requested and contact tracing becomes necessary.

Some points to remember:

Please have the usher write down your name and phone # on the attendance sheet as soon as you enter the church. Your temperature will be taken.

Please follow the directions of the usher on lighting candles.

Please expect assigned seating to ensure proper social distancing.

Icons can be venerated by blessing yourself with the sign of the cross and bowing without physical contact (no kissing or touching the icons)

Please follow the instructions of the Priest on how to receive Communion.

Antidoron will not be distributed at this time.

Please remember to wear a mask and bring your own Divine Liturgy Book.

Liturgical Services have started, although with 'preventative measures'! Please see May 31, 2020 bulletin for the full procedures. We are blessed to have the services with restrictions and we pray for the time that these conditions are no longer necessary!

Sun...September 20...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Sat...September 26...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church hall – must wear a mask

Sun...September 27...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas

In memory of **Nicholas King & Justin King** offered by Nancy King & Family

In memory of **Kathryn Puschak** offered by Christine & Brad Scholenberger

In memory of **Helen Macenka** offered by Martha Teno

In memory of **Elaine (Harahus) Rottet** offered by Elizabeth Warcholak

In memory of **Natalie Miller** offered by Olga Kushnir

In memory of **Helen Scheese** (40 days) offered by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Scheese & Family

NEXT Parastas is scheduled for October 25, 2020

Prayer List: HEAVENLY FATHER ... *Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent your only begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit us and heal us, Your servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Son Jesus Christ; grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed. Youaika are the source of healing and to You, we give glory; to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Michael Birocik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Gloria Ferri, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Courtney Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York.

September Birthdays: 14- Matushka Lisa Weremedic, 14- Olga Hebda (100), 18- Adam Balliet, 20- Joseph Macenka (97), 30- Eleanor Sidoriak

September Wedding Anniversaries: 1- John & Olga Kushnir, 17-John & Ann Yaroma, 20- Michael & Wendy Kulick, 27- Andrew & Analisha Danko

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.

Financials 9/7-13/20 *Operating Acct:* - Candles 31 – Weekly 420 – Holy Days 102 – Altar Candles 40 – Donations 495 = Total \$1,088.00 Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Building Fund 15 – Furnace Fund 200 – Cemetery Fund 30

Please support St. Mary's Orthodox Church by shopping at Amazon Smile

When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will make a donation to St. Mary's Orthodox Church.

See St. Mary's Facebook page for details.

Candles (September 20):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... For the health of **Russell King** offered by the Ted Bogosh

Altar Candles... For the health of **Julia Forte** offered by Ted Bogosh

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Pauline Maholick** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of **Gloria Ferri** offered by Ted Bogosh

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... For the health of **Marie Skripnek** offered by Ted Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod...In memory of **Walter Scarloss** offered by Natalie & Michael Bolinski

If you do not feel comfortable coming to church yet, you may continue to watch On-line Services:

Go to the Diocese of Eastern PA website at the bottom of our church website.

At the top of the page – Click on Live Streaming – Scroll down to church services

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Mogadore, OH – You Tube

Services every day of the week – Mon. to Fri. at 9:00 PM

Saturday Vespers – 5:00 PM; Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

Thank you everyone for the cards and prayers following my recent fall, surgery, hospital stay, and time in rehab. Betty Warcholak

Thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers, and gifts sent to me following my recent surgery. I appreciated it very much. Matushka Lisa

ACHIEVING THE ULTIMATE "VICTORY"

"During the reign of the Emperor Constantine the Great, Christianity began to spread to regions where the gospel of Christ had not yet taken root. Missionaries in the early 4th century encountered great difficulties in taking the Lord's message to the barbaric tribes living in the Northern sections of the Empire, with the Goths being particularly hostile towards their preaching.

Still, some 'seed' managed to fall on 'good soil' among the uncivilized Goths. Through the efforts of the saintly Bishop Theophilus, who had been a participant in the First Ecumenical Council in 325 A.D., converts began to embrace the Christian faith. Foremost among them was the MARTYR NICETAS, whose name itself means 'one who conquers.' After being baptized by Bishop Theophilus, Nicetas became instrumental in turning many of his countrymen from their pagan ways. He assisted in translating the New Testament and other sacred writings into the language of the Goths, which greatly aided the establishment of Christian communities in the Danube River area.

The success of Christianity among the Goths incurred the wrath of their pagan ruler, Prince Athanaric, who ruthlessly began to persecute those who now professed their belief in Jesus. Although subjected to terrible torture, Nicetas refused to pay homage to the pagan gods. He ultimately suffered martyrdom in 372 A.D. when he was put to death by fire. He died knowing that by giving up his life for Christ, he had won the greatest of 'victories': achieving eternal life in God's heavenly kingdom."

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin.....Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey

Statement of Archbishop Benjamin on Wildfires in Western US

SAN FRANCISCO, CA [DOW]

The news from the West has been practically apocalyptic of late with wildfires throughout the West, especially in California, Southern Oregon and Washington State. I am presently aware that several families have lost everything to these fires and others are threatened. Not only that, whole towns have gone up in flames affecting the lives of many with loss of homes and jobs. Yesterday the skies in San Francisco were dark orange - so dark that the streetlamps were still lit at noon. Thankfully, while threatened, no churches have been lost.

Fr. Matthew Tate of the Annunciation Orthodox Church, Milwaukie, OR wrote:

“Seven families are in the Red Zone (leave now) and have evacuated. At least two of the homes are likely to burn. The others are in the path of one of the fires.

Most of us are either in the Yellow (get ready now) or Green (be prepared to leave) Zones. This includes the whole area around the church property. The winds have abated but the fires are very active and close. From my office window I cannot see beyond about 100 feet due to smoke. It is eerie and worrisome for everyone.”

Fr. Andreas Blom, who lives in Talent, OR was evacuated with his family yesterday. There was really concern his home and church were lost to the flames. He was able to return home today to pick up a few things and found everything across the street from his house was totally lost to the fire. His home and the church have survived so far. At this writing, three families from his mission were burnt out though.

First of all, we ask for your prayers for everyone, Orthodox and non-Orthodox who have experienced loss. Secondly, should you wish to send a donation, checks may be made out to:

Diocese of the West – and sent to:

Fire Fund

c/o Archangel Gabriel Mission

PO Box 823

Ashland, OR 97520

Donations will be used to help not only our own parishioners, but also our neighbors in this time of crisis.

We thank you in advance.

+Benjamin

Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation. Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, his wife, Martyr Theopistes, and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus, of Rome. Holy Martyr and Confessor Michael and his councilor, Theodore, Wonderworkers of Chernigov. Rt. Blv. Oleg, Prince of Briansk. Monastic Martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete.

Troparion — Tone 1

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance. / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries. / And by virtue of Your Cross, / preserve Your habitation.

Kontakion — Tone 4

As You were voluntarily raised upon the cross for our sake, / grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; / make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power, / granting them victories over their adversaries, / by bestowing on them the Invincible trophy, Your weapon of Peace.

Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, with his wife and children, of Rome

Troparion — Tone 4

Your holy martyr Eustáthius and his wife and sons, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God. / For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. / Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion — Tone 2

(Podoben: "Seeking the highest...")

Having openly imitated the Passion of Christ, / and having eagerly drunk of His cup, O Eustáthius, / you became a partaker and fellow heir of His glory, / receiving divine forgiveness from on high from the God of all.

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.

Matthew 22:35-46 (Gospel)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.