

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 6, 2020
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Miracle of Archangel Michael

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 6...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Celebrating Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos)

Sat...September 12...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church hall – must wear a mask

Sun...September 13...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Celebrating Exaltation of the Precious Cross)

Sat...September 19...4:00 PM – VESPERS – in church hall – must wear a mask

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

NEXT Parastas is scheduled for September 27, 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 Birozik, 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, 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

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 8/24-30/20 Operating Acct: - Donations 346 - Candles 53 – Weekly 977 – Non-Env 150 – Holy Days 236 – Altar Candles 210 – Donations 585 = Total \$2,557.00 Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. Building Fund 225 – Furnace Fund 800 – Cemetery Fund 40 - Thank you!

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.

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

Candles (from August 30 correction):

Vigil Crosses ... In memory of **Joseph P. Kupetz, Jr.** offered by sister, Geri King

Candles (September 6):

7-Day Vigils/Altar... In memory of **Joseph P. Kupetz, Jr.** offered by Charles & Jeanna Depuy & Family

Altar Candles... For the health of **Stephanie Chmel** offered by Martha Stafiniak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Mother, Mary Wyshosky** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of **Gloria Bench** offered by Millie O'Shura

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In memory of **Husband, Andrew Chmel** offered by Stephanie Chmel

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

Arch Flowers above Icon...In memory of **Helen Ostrosky** offered by Chris & Marie Kalavritinos & Anne Ostrosky

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

THE MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

“Miraculous occurrences play a major role in our Faith. Countless tales of Divine Intervention have been documented among those who fervently prayed to our Lord, the Theotokos or one of God's saints for their assistance in time of need.

One such miracle is attributed to the Archangel Michael. In the town of Colossae in Asia Minor, a great church dedicated to this angelic warrior was built by the faithful on the site of a popular well, whose waters were said to have healing powers. The Church of the Archangel Michael and its well became known throughout the Empire. Faithful from remote regions moved to Colossae just to be close to this sacred site. Archippos, a young boy from Hieropolis, was attracted to this holy place, serving as acolyte and custodian of the Church of the Archangel Michael for over 80 years!

At the time when his life was nearing its end, Archippos learned of a diabolical plan devised by pagan detractors to divert the flow of the nearby Chryssos River, so that its rushing waters would destroy the famous church and its well. Archippos went to the church and prayed to the Archangel Michael to intercede. According to Holy Tradition, St. Michael descended from heaven and plunged his fiery sword into the river, separating it into two parts. Instead of engulfing the church and its well, the river literally formed a protective moat around the site!”

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

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossæ. Martyrs Eudoxius, Zeno, and Macarius. St. Archippus of Herapolis. Martyr Romulus, and with him many others. Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna. Martyrs Cyriacus, Faustus the Presbyter, Abibas the Deacon, and 11 others, at Alexandria. St. David of Hermopolis, Egypt. Hieromartyr Priest Maxim Sandovich.

Prokeimenon – Tone 4: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! / In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

Troparion — Tone 4

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.

Kontakion — Tone 4

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!

While the Trisagion is chanted, the priest saith this prayer:

O Holy God, Who restest in the saints, Who art praised with the thrice-holy hymn by the Seraphim, and art glorified by the Cherubim, and art worshiped by all the heavenly hosts, Who from nonbeing hast brought all things into being, Who hast created man according to Thine image and Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom - 13 - likeness, and hast adorned him with Thine every gift; Who givest wisdom and understanding to him that asketh, and Who disdainest not him that sinneth, but hast appointed repentance unto salvation; Who hast vouchsafed us, Thy lowly and unworthy servants, to stand even in this hour before the glory of Thy holy altar, and to offer the worship and glory due unto Thee: Do Thou Thyself, O Master, accept even from the lips of us sinners the thrice-holy hymn, and visit us in Thy goodness. Pardon us every sin, voluntary and involuntary; sanctify our souls and bodies, and grant us to serve Thee in holiness all the days of our life, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos, and of all the saints, who from ages past have been pleasing unto Thee. For holy art Thou, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (*Epistle*)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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.

Matthew 21:33-42 (*Gospel*)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Prayer after Holy Communion

I thank Thee, O Lord my God, that Thou hast not rejected me, a sinner, but hast vouchsafed me to be a communicant of Thy holy Things. I thank Thee that Thou hast vouchsafed me, the unworthy, to partake of Thy most pure and heavenly Gifts. But, O Lord, Lover of mankind, Who for our sake didst die and rise again and didst bestow upon us these Thy dread and life-giving Mysteries for the well-being and sanctification of our souls and bodies, grant that these may be even unto me for the healing of both soul and body, for the averting of everything hostile, for the enlightenment of the eyes of my heart, for the peace of the powers of my soul, for faith unashamed, for love unfeigned, for the fullness of wisdom, for the keeping of Thy commandments, for an increase of Thy divine grace, and for the attainment of Thy Kingdom; that being preserved by Them in Thy holiness I may ever remember Thy grace, and no longer live for myself but for Thee our Master and Benefactor. And thus when I have departed this life in hope of eternal life, may I attain unto everlasting rest, where the sound of them that keep festival is unceasing and the delight is endless of them that behold the ineffable beauty of Thy countenance. For Thou art the true desire and the unutterable gladness of those who love Thee, O Christ our God, and all creation doth hymn Thee unto the ages. Amen.

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to

God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World. The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.