

# **St. Mary's Orthodox Church**

217 First Street – Coaldale Pa 18218-1602

Phone.....570-645-2772

**OUR WEBSITE...[www.stmarysnativity.org](http://www.stmarysnativity.org)**

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic  
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky  
Choir Director: Wash King

**Sunday, March 29, 2020**  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Tone 8 – Page 44

**Prokeimenon – Tone 8 – Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!**

Epistle Readings: Hebrews 6:13-20 and Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel Readings: Mark 9:17-31 and Matthew 4:25-5:12

***Glory Be To Jesus Christ!***

***Glory Be Forever!***

**All liturgical services are canceled through March!**

**Tues, March 17<sup>th</sup> until Tues. March 31<sup>st</sup> All Services – Divine Liturgy, Akathist, Vespers, Parastas, etc. and all meetings and events are CANCELED.**

**Please contact Fr. James Weremedic with any emergencies or concerns at 570-645-2772.**

**Please use this time to read the Scriptures, pray in your home and please pray for those on our prayer list.**

**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. You 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 Birosik, James Blair, Terry Blair, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Gloria Ferri, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, Helen Macenka, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Courtney Miller, Mildred O'Shura, Anna Pisko, Helen Scheese, Melissa Schmitt, Althea Shellock, Helen Suda, Martha Stafiniak, Martha Teno, Nancy Vanno, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Richard York

Please read the **Epistle, Gospel and Scripture Readings** on OCA website or use your bible with the Readings listed on Church Calendar during this period of time.

**As Metropolitan Tikhon's address on the OCA.ORG website, St. Mary's Orthodox Church will not hold services through the end of March. Streaming of services will be available by going to the DOEPA.ORG website and follow the instructions or OCA.ORG website and click on Coronavirus Resources (right side of page). Scroll down to Liturgical and Spiritual Resources and Several OCA churches doing live streams. Click on the church and follow the instructions.**

**Local On-line Services:**

**Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church – Harrisburg, PA**

Holy Days, Reader's Vespers – Sat. at 5 PM      Wed. March 25-Reader's Vespers - 6:30 PM

Typica Reader's Service – Sun. at 9:30 AM (copy of service is on their website and OCA website)

See home page of their website for replays and live stream service schedule

**Holy Apostles Orthodox Church – Mechanicburg, PA**

Presanctified Liturgy – Fri. at 6:30 PM      Wed. March 25-Vesperal Liturgy - 6:30 PM

See home page of their website for live stream service schedule

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church – Mogadore, OH**

Services every day of the week      March 25 - Vesperal Liturgy - 6:00 PM

Check St. Nicholas Orthodox Church website for times

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**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**

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7-Day Vigils/Altar ... For      *These will be rescheduled when services resume.*

Altar Candles... In

Eternal Lamp... In

Vigil Crosses ... For

7-Day Vigils/Tetrapod... In

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod... In

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**Financials 3/16-22/20 Operating Acct:** -Dues 0 – Candles 0 – Weekly 190 – Non-Env 0 – Holy Days 0 – Altar

Candles 40 – Initial Offering 0 – Donations 1,100 = **Total \$ 1,330.00**

Building Fund 0- ...Charity Donation 0- ...Furnace Fund 25- ...Cemetery 0...Flowers 10 ... **Thank you.**

**March Birthdays:** 1- Logan Leatherman, 6- Marie Kalavritinos, 16- Anthony Vavra, 21- Mildred O'Shura, 24- Neil Skripnek, Tracy Skripnek, Zachary King, Olga Sidoriak (98), 29-Sandra Zuber

**March Wedding Anniversaries:** None

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**Orthodox Mission of Helping Each Other**

**Things we can do during these challenging times:**

**Call each other – stay connected to our parish and community families – do wellness checks**

**Reach out to the elderly population to see if they need groceries or prescriptions**

**Wash your hands, use gloves and disinfectant wipes, and keep social distance**

**Send cards to each other and share uplifting messages**

**Pray with great intensity for the well-being of both family and friends**

**Keep your faith**

## **March 29 – St. John Climacus**

**Christ took upon Himself the sins of the World  
The Garden Became a Battle ground**

**“Gethsemane! The very word brings an awesome image into our minds. The icon on today’s bulletin captures the vivid account of Christ in the Garden. Let us recount the biblical record of this event.**

**It was after the Mystical Supper that the Lord took His apostles to the place which He often frequented to pray. Now Jesus came there to prepare Himself to die. He took three of the Apostles, Peter, James, and John, further into the garden. These were the three who saw Him once transfigured in all His glory; now they were to see Him suffer and weep.**

**Christ bid His friends to ‘watch and pray,’ while He went on, falling to His knees and pouring out His heart and soul in agonized prayer. Sweat, like beads of blood, form on His brow as He contemplates the suffering to follow. Finally, Jesus prays: ‘Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Let not My will but Thine be down!’ And the Father sent an Angel to strengthen Him for the agony to come.**

**Jesus lies, exhausted, and we begin to realize what a price He had to pay for our salvation. As for the apostles, they were tired and asleep, unable to cope with the situation. The words of the Lord ring out: ‘The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak...’ What a picture we see of our Lord! His agony would end in complete submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. It is not to be interpreted as an act of weakness, but the fulfillment of a higher purpose. Jesus CHOSE to go to the crucifixion on Golgotha, in order to save mankind.”**

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

## **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm**

**The Lord is my Shepherd – That’s Relationships!  
I shall not want – That’s Supply!  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures – That’s Rest!  
He leadeth me beside the still waters – That’s Refreshment!  
He restoreth my soul – That’s Healing!  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness – That’s Guidance!  
For His name sake – That’s Purpose!  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death – That’s testing!  
I will fear no evil – That’s Protection!  
For Thou art with me – That’s Faithfulness!  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me – That’s Discipline!  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies – That’s Hope!  
Thou annointest my head with oil – That’s Consecration!  
My cup runneth over – That’s Abundance!  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – That’s Blessing!  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – That’s Security!  
For ever – That’s Eternity!**

Thank you St. Michael’s of Mt. Carmel for sharing this with us.

Sunday March 29, 2020

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).** Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364). Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.). St. Niketas of the Roslavl Forests (Russia—1793).

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

**Troparion — Tone 1**

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, / you were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him who gave you strength! / Glory to Him who granted you a crown! / Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

**Kontakion — Tone 4**

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence, / to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, / O our Father and Teacher John.

**Ephesians 5:9-19 (*Epistle, Saint*)**

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**Hebrews 6:13-20 (*Epistle*)**

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saint)**

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)**

Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.” He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”