

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, May 3, 2020
Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Sunday
Tone 2

Prokeimenon – Tone 6 – O Lord, save Thy people

And bless Thine inheritance!

Christ is Risen!

Indeed, He is Risen!

Khristos Voskrese!

Voistinu Voskrese!

Christos Anesti!

Alithos Anesti!

El Messieh!

Hakken Kahm!

Cristo ha Resucitado!

Verdaderamente ha Resucitado!

All liturgical services are cancelled until further notice! This includes Divine Liturgy, Akathist, Vespers, Parastas, etc. and all meetings and events at the church are CANCELLED.

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

APRIL 28, 2020

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINU VOSKRESE!

DEAR PARISHIONERS:

DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME, WE AS A NATION AND A CHURCH HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY OUR LEADERS TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TO STAY AT HOME. THIS IS VERY UNFAMILIAR TO US IN BOTH OUR DAILY SECULAR LIFE AND OUR DAILY CHURCH LIFE.

BISHOP MARK HAS ASKED US AS A PARISH TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES SO WE CAN COME TOGETHER SAFELY AT A FUTURE DATE.

THE COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING THE CURRENT GUIDELINES AND DEVELOPING A PLAN THAT PROTECTS YOU AND OUR PARISH. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT AS AN OLDER PARISH WE WILL NEED TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY.

**REMINDER! PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DONATIONS / CHECKS TO:
ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH, 217 FIRST STREET, COALDALE, PA 18218.
DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME, TITHING MAY BE A SAVING GRACE FOR OUR PARISH?
PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SUPPORT ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX PARISH.**

YOUR SERVANT IN CHRIST,

JOHN EVETUSHICK, PRESIDENT

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

Local 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 Holy Week Worship Options

Scroll down to Livestream Calendar and Click on Service you want to watch

Christ the Saviour – Harrisburg, PA --- Readers Vespers – 5 PM

Sunday Typica Prayers – 9:30 AM

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church – Mechanicsburg, PA --- Vespers – 6 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

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

Services every day of the week – Mon. to Fri. at 7:00 PM

Sat. Vespers- 5:00 PM, Sunday Divine Liturgy- 9:30 AM

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We express our deepest sympathy to the family of

Dr. Russell Basil Puschak

Who fell asleep in the Lord on 03/26/2020

Memory Eternal!

Father of Anne-Marie Fuchs, Thomas Puschak, and Susan Schneider

40th Day Parastas will be on Sunday, May 3rd following the Typica Service

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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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Financials April 19-24, 2020 Operating Acct: -Dues 400 – Candles 33 – Weekly 590 – Non-Env 0 – Holy Days 250 – Altar Candles 40 – Pascha Offerings 240 – Donations 1,110 = **Total \$ 2,663.00**
Building Fund 539.08- ... Charity Donation 0- ... Furnace Fund 0- ... Cemetery 20- ... Flowers 40 ... **Thank you.**

May Birthdays: 2- Lynn Sharpe, 17- Russell King, 17- Julia Forte, 21- Lindsey Ruch, 21- Gloria Ferri, 22- Andrew Miller 31- Marie Skripnek

May Wedding Anniversaries: 9 – Richard and Julie McHugh, 16- V. Rev Paul & Matushka Lovey Ropitsky

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Please keep filling your church envelopes

April 19-24 income -\$2,663.00; April 19-24 expenses - \$2,145.21

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May 3 – “HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN”

“In the beginning of His public ministry, our Lord spent much of His time in the region of Galilee, where His miraculous works brought Him a large following. In addition to the 12 Apostles and other trusted disciples, a group of holy women loyally ministered to Christ. They believed in the Lord so strongly that, when all others deserted Him, these saintly women remained at His side, standing sorrowfully in the shadow of the Cross when Christ was crucified.

Christ's death on the Cross did not end the devotion of this special group that will forever be commemorated as the MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. The Resurrection narrative tells us that ‘very early in the morning on the first day of the week,’ these dedicated women went to the Lord's tomb. They brought myrrh and spices with them, hoping to anoint the Body of their Master, performing one, final act of service for Him. Imagine their wonder when they found the grave empty! Bewildered at first, their dismay quickly turned to joy as they heard the words of the angel: ‘WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN!’

Indeed, the Myrrh-bearing Women were the first to know that Christ had arisen, just as He had foretold. Their faith in the Saviour was rewarded in this privileged manner!

On this third Sunday of Pascha, our Holy Church also remembers two secret disciples of Jesus: Nicodemus, a leader of the Pharisees, and Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy nobleman who buried Christ in his own tomb in a garden near Golgotha. “

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

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The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikodemus asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulchre, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).

April 25, 2020

Apostle and Evangelist Mark

Preliminary Process, Considerations, and Concerns to Address Before Resuming Broader Liturgical Gatherings

Dear Rev. Frs., esteemed members of the parish councils and faithful,

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He Is Risen! I pray you had an enjoyable and blessed Bright Week. Above all, I pray you are in good health and are taking care of yourselves and one another. First and foremost, I want to thank the clergy for their tireless efforts during the past few months in adapting to this unprecedented situation. All have moved outside their personal comfort zone and areas of experience to continue to be engaged with their respective parishes. Thank you for your faithfulness to your calling. Additionally, I commend the faithful who assisted the clergy in numerous ways, through assisting with phone calls to the faithful, wellness checks, technological services, as well as, serving and singing for the benefit of the entire community. May our Lord bless us with patience as we tread an unfamiliar pathway. Your continued support of the ongoing work of Christ's Holy Church is greatly appreciated. I heard that all parishes with few, i.e., one or two exceptions, experienced no decline in financial support!

Over the past three days our clergy engaged in video conferences on a deanery by deanery basis to discuss considerations and concerns in anticipation of parishes resuming normative and broader Liturgical services and fuller attendance. These discussions were quite fruitful in many regards. There is no one answer for the OCA, the Diocese or even the Deaneries. Every parish has its own unique situation, building configuration and population which requires engagement and collaboration between the Diocese, the clergy, parish councils and the faithful, ever mindful of civil authorities and the Center for Disease Control guidelines and recommendations. These discussions and this directive are not intended to be preemptive, but proactive. We need to give prayerful and serious thought to development of a plan for each parish.

First of all, let me be clear, the Church was never required by the civil authorities to close or stop having services. Limitations of gatherings of up to 10 persons came from the CDC, not the civil authorities. Stricter limitations were later imposed by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, based upon recommendations from the medical field, an insurance agent and attorneys. As those limitations are being reviewed and / or changing, we need to be collaboratively proactive in considering *when* and *how* to move forward within each parish.

Therefore, I would ask the clergy to work with their parish councils to examine their own unique situations. We have parishes that easily allow for social distancing and others that require creative approaches. As your bishop I insist the following be the beginnings of a baseline, gleaned from our video-conference (as other recommendations are received from the clergy, parish councils and faithful, they will be taken into consideration for inclusion in this list):

1. CDC Guidelines must be posted at the entrance of the church along with ongoing updates of verified information pertaining to various age groupings and co-morbidities;

2. Parish Councils must insure the sanitation of the facilities as appropriate (Parishioners may be encouraged to bring a throw for their personal space, if that will alleviate anxiety and a pillow case for covering the top of the pew in front the them where they may rest their hands to support themselves);
3. A person or persons are to be appointed to open doors for entry into the church. The doors from the Narthex to the Nave should be left open;
4. Hand sanitizer must be provided in appropriate areas;
5. Every parishioner must wear a mask (Parishes should invest in buying a supply for those who may show up without one.);
6. Choirs are to be moved to the front of the Nave and limited to a minimum (This will minimize any contamination associated with Choir members projecting their voices over the top of the people.)
7. Markers be placed on the flooring to indicate proper distancing for Holy Communion;
8. Paper towels will be used instead of a communion cloth, held by the communicant and disposed of properly;
9. Candles will be placed in the candle holders in advance for the faithful or a designated person to light;
10. Live streaming will continue for those unable to attend regardless of the reason;
11. No parish will be compelled to open, but all parishes must begin discussion of a plan and submit it for approval;
12. No one should be shamed or feel coerced to return before they can comfortably attend (Their concerns should be taken into consideration in developing a plan).

Creative solutions to consider for parishes with larger communities and smaller facilities

1. Live Streaming to a separate part of the facilities for families with toddlers and infants who are resistant to masks or for the elderly;
2. Saturday Liturgies for high risk persons and Sunday Liturgy for families with young children (Alternately, this could be rotated from week to week;
3. Parishes with limited space and larger numbers may need to consider the use of their parish hall for Divine Services, adding another day for at risk persons to attend or Live Streaming for persons who may not fit into the limited worship space, but still able to be present within the facility.

Once again, no parishes is being coerced. Our intent is to simply encourage fruitful dialogue within each parish, which may be helpful to other parishes as well. The Holy Synod will be reviewing its previous guidelines Wednesday April 29th and issued a decision on May 01 which it feels appropriate going forward. The Holy Synod will not be able to hear or address specifics of each civil jurisdiction and the complexities of each Diocesan situation. Their decisions will become a part of the ongoing process, but we have much work to do on a parish by parish basis that is beyond the Holy Synod to address.

I ask your God-pleasing prayers as your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

CC: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and the members of the Holy Synod

3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA Tone 2. Myrrhbearing Women. Ven. Theodosius, Abbot of the Kiev Caves Monastery and Founder of Cœnobitic Monasticism in Russia. Martyrs Timothy the Reader and his wife Maura of Antinoë in Egypt. St. Peter the Wonderworker, Bishop of Argolis.

Troparion — Tone 2

The angel came to the myrrhbearing women at the tomb and said: / Myrrh is meet for the dead; / but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! / So proclaim: The Lord is risen, / granting the world great mercy!

Kontakion — Tone 2

You commanded the myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ! / By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother! / You commanded them to preach to Your apostles*: The Savior is Risen from the tomb!

Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.