

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, October 18, 2020
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Glory Be Forever!

Liturgical Services continue, 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 continue with these conditions!

Sun...October 18...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in church hall– must wear a mask
Wed...October 21...3:00 PM – Church Council Meeting in church hall – following social distancing guidelines
Sat...October 24...4:00 PM – Vespers – in **church hall basement** – must wear a mask
Sun...October 25...9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by Parastas and Coffee Hour in church hall
Parastas: In memory of Jennie & Michael Harb offered by Jeanne & John Cannon

In memory of Kathryn Puschak offered by Julie & Chris Felpel
In memory of Helen Macenka offered by Marie Sidoriak Heffelfinger
In memory of Helen Scheese offered by Sandra & Stephen Matsick
In memory of Gertrude Tatusko offered by Michael Tatusko
In memory of Marie Weremedic offered by Fr. James, Mat. Lisa, and Sbdn James Weremedic
In memory of Carole Sagan offered by Fr. James, Mat. Lisa, and Sbdn James Weremedic
In memory of Gloria Ferri offered by Gloria Bench
In memory of John Herbert offered by Mildred O'Shura & Family
In memory of Michael & Julia Rosahac & Pavlik Family offered by the Rosahac Family

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.*

Metropolitan Theodosius, Archbishop David, Matushka Lovey Ropitsky, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Michael Birosik, Clark Bogosh, Theodore Bogosh, Jane Bubernak, Cecil Buchanan, Emmalyn Naomi Buchanan, Evanna Jane Buchanan, Stephanie Chmel, Edward Conarty, Irene David, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Olga Hebda, Peter Holoviak, John King, Claire Kononchuk, Michael Kulick, John Kushnir, MaryAnn Macenka, Mary Maholick, Alexandra Miller, Britney Miller, Courtney Miller,

Isaac 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.

October Birthdays: 3-Fr. James Weremedic, 5- Barbara Teno, 7-Michael Harahus, 10- Andrew Balliet, 18-John W. King, 20-Martha Stafiniak, 26- Peggy Lampman, 27- Fr. Paul Ropitsky, 30- John Lampman, 31- Margaret Miller

October Wedding Anniversaries: 1- Odess & Claire Remington, 3-John & Mary Evetushick, 22- Chris & Marie Kalavritinos

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 10/5-11/20: *Operating Acct:* - Candles 34 – Offerings 1,332 – Non-Env 150 – Holy Days 88 – Altar Candles 80 – Donations 10 = Total \$1,694.00 Building Fund 15 – Flower Fund 40 – Charity Fund 21 – Please continue to keep filling your church envelopes. – 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.

Candles (October 18):

Flowers... For the health of **Olga Hebda** offered by Dr. Michael & Rebecca Danchak

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

Altar Candles... For the health of **Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Sister, Anna Shears** offered by Julia Forte

Vigil Crosses ... For the health of **Wash King** offered by Ted Bogosh

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

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod-In memory of **Elaine Harahus Rottet** offered by

Margaret Ann Enama

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 8:00 PM

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

"TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD"

Saint Mark's account of Christ's Crucifixion introduces us to the saint we examine today: **MARTYR LONGINUS**. Longinus was NOT a follower of Jesus. On the contrary, he was the Roman centurion assigned to keep order at the cruel execution of our Lord.

Undoubtedly, Longinus had been given similar assignments before. But this particular task would change his life forever. It is recorded in Mark's Gospel that this soldier was so moved by the final moments of Christ's life that he uttered the phrase that will keep his memory alive throughout eternity: **"Truly this was the Son of God."**

The tradition of our Church is that Longinus immediately followed the Apostles, renouncing the Emperor and all that Rome stood for. He remained in the city of Jerusalem, where he was able to win many converts to Christianity. It was powerful testimony indeed for others to hear how a pagan servant of Caesar had come to accept and believe in the one true God at the cross.

It did not take long for Pontius Pilate to learn of the *"treason"* of Longinus. Trained assassins were sent out with orders to bring the head of the former centurion back to the governor! Longinus did not even attempt to flee from his pursuers, for he knew if they failed to carry out their mission, their lives would be taken. So it came to pass that this brave warrior of Christ gave his life for his new-found Master in 36 A.D.

When the head of Longinus was brought back to Pilate, he ordered it to be discarded with the trash as one last act of humiliation. This relic was recovered by the Christian community and given proper burial. Many miraculous healings have been experienced by those who prayed at his tomb.

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.).
Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus. Ven. Julian the Hermit, of Mesopotamia.

Colossians 4:5-9, 14, 18 (Epistle, St. Luke)

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you.

They will make known to you all things which are happening here. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. This salutation by my own hand – Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 (Epistle)

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast.

I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 10:16-21 (Gospel, St. Luke)

He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Luke 8:5-15 (Gospel)

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Apostle and Evangelist Luke

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied Saint Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's coworkers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits Saint Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. Saint Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), Saint Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In Saint Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

Saint Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of Saint Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infamous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of Saint Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of Saint Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Saint Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skelton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in Saint Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

Saint Luke is also commemorated on April 22.