



Saints Peter and Paul

Orthodox Church

25636 N. Mosiertown Rd Crossingville, PA 1641

Archpriest Fr. Daniel Mathewson – Rector

V. Rev. David Smoley – Retired

Lord's Day – 12-22-2019

Parish phone: 814-734-3801 Find us on the Web at:

www.orthodoxcrossingville.org

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity. Great Martyr Anastasia, “Deliverer from Bonds”, and her teacher, Martyr Chrysogonus, and with them Martyrs Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and others, who suffered under Diocletian (ca. 304).

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

God became man so that we might become god. –St. Athanasius the Great

Pray with out ceasing...

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those in need – Fr. Isaac, Fr. Samuel, Fr. Andrew, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Melissa, Judy, the newly born Cashal Jack, Debbie, TK, Eliza, Paul, Pearl, William, Joseph, Karen, John, Stavros, Nickolas, Timothy, Autumn, (Sergius), Judy (child), James, Amanda, Damian, Delani, Jeremiah, Mary, Christine, Rick, Samuel, Timothy, Andrew, Kati, Simeon, Debbie, Christopher, Megan, Andrew, Margret-Ann, Lorelly, Thomas, Evan The Homebound Ann, Tanya, Richard, Ruth, William, Claudia Catechumen- Christian ... Travelers ... Military servers...Greg ...Newly Departed : Theona Sekel, Helen Miller, Anna Anderson, Rodney Senyo, Josephine Olnvik, Marilyn Filipos, Irene Hoover...Departed Orthodox – Mat. Anastasia, Jeff, Catherine, John B., John S., Nickoli, Ann, Katherine, Vernon, Paul, James, Andrew, Peter, Paul, Margaret, Michael Mary Ann, Timothy... Special requests... Gilbert, Phyllis, Anthony, Ian, Paul, Daleen, James, Sean, Liam, Bill, Wesley, Kim, Jim, Margaret, Loren, Russell, Julia, Shelby, Janet, Mareen, Lynn, Maragret. Helen, Dan, Jonathan, Donna.

Holy Hymns:

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 2 Troparion (Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith,
for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as
though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel
appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were
sheep.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms
forth from the Virgin in the cave!
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine
Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like
Adam.// Christ comes to restore the image which He made in
the beginning.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd
she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will
rejoice, beholding Him, and with the shepherds, they will
glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and
glorified is Your name forever! (*Song of the three Holy
Youths, v. 2*)

v: For You are just in all that You have done to us. (v. 3)

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have
told us. (Ps 43/44:1)*

*v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and
have put to shame them that hate us. (Ps 43/44:7)*

Troparion – Tone 4

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe:
Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to
our souls great mercy!

Kontakion – Tone 2

O Lord, you have taken up to eternal rest and to the
enjoyment of your blessings the two divinely-inspired
preachers, the leaders of the Apostles, for you have accepted
their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, for you
alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

Holy Scripture:

Luke 24:12-35 (5th Matins Gospel)

But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he
saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed,
marveling to himself at what had happened. Now behold, two
of them were traveling that same day to a village called
Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they
talked together of all these things which had happened. So it
was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself
drew near and went with them. But their eyes were
restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to
them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with
one another as you walk and are sad?” Then the one whose
name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the
only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the
things which happened there in these days?” And He said to
them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things
concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in
deed and word before God and all the people, and how the
chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned
to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was
He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this,
today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and
certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb
early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they
came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who
said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us
went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said;
but Him they did not see.” Then He said to them, “O foolish

ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Matthew 1:1-25 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse

begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Holy Services and Activities

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, *not giving up meeting together*, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (St. Paul to the Hebrews 10:23-25)

WINTER SCHEDULE: Please mark your calendars as family time.

Saturdays - Great Vespers or Vigil - 6:00pm

Sundays - CGS and Matins 9:00am Divine Liturgy following
-Children's Choir and Adult Choir practice before Coffee Hour
-Coffee Hour

Holy Nativity Services:

Tue. Dec 24th - Royal Hours - 9am

- Holy Supper - 5pm

- Compline/Vigil - 6:30pm

Wed. Dec. 25th - **NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST** - Divine

Liturgy - 9:30am CHRIST IS BORN!

Thurs. Dec. 26th - Akathist to Mary, the Birth-giver of God- 12 noon

Sat. De. 28th - Great Vespers - 6pm

Wed. Jan. 1st Molieben of Thanksgiving for the New Year- 12 noon- Lunch to follow in the Hall

Sat. Jan. 4th - Youth and families trip to Ray's MTB indoor Bike Park Cleveland 8am departure return 9pm 50\$

HOLY THEOPHANY SERVICES

Sun. Jan. 5th - Vigil for Holy Theophany - with the Blessing of Holy Water - 4pm

Mon. Jan. 6th - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with the blessing of Cussawego Creek - 9:30 am

Tues. Jan. 7th - Choir Party - Terri Jouvors 7pm

Sat. Jan. 11th - Blessing of French Creek - Meadville - 12 noon V Brewery following (These are both outreach events)
Sat. Jan. 25th - Blessing of Lake Erie - 12 noon - V Brewery following bring an friend or two!)

Sat. Jan. 31st - Vigil 6pm
Sun. Feb. 2nd - **Entrance of the Lord into the Temple** HOLY DAY - No Matins
Sun. Mar. 1st - Beginning of Great and Holy Lent-

Spring Marriage Retreat- Saturday MARCH 28th, 2020 10am-5pm -- Sts. Peter and Paul OCA Crossingville

Team Activities:

Missions Team is continuing its call for donations for local mission work and some far away including h The Hopr Project, Bethesda House, and Edinboro Food pantry. Used clothing is available for our parish members in the back rooms of the hall. *Need an inexpensive Christmas gift? Check it out.* The Team will be donating what is left to the local Thrifty Threads. See Anna for more details.

--The Missions team is preparing for a trip to Alaska from JUNE 25th - JULY 4th 2020 (Its official!)-please donate toward their trip as you are able, just mark your donation in the offering as "Alaska Trip" as you give on Sunday. See Anna R. or Fr. Daniel if you would like to attend.

Education Team is continuing the present schedule of Atrium 1 meeting at 9am on Sunday Mornings.

**It has been proposed that we have a Once a month Family Day on the First Saturday with Atrium 1, Atrium 2, youth quest, Mom's Group, Men's fellowship...*

Please let Fr. Daniel know if this is a good idea. It will not be scheduled until Fr. Daniel hears some feed back from parents and families involved. Atrium 1 would still continue to be offered on Sunday mornings as well.

Activities- There will be a number of events for youth and families through out the year, including: Learning Prospora Making which took place yesterday with 7 attending. It was a blessing for all; Next month some of the Older Youth and families will travel to Ray's Bike Park and serve at the St. Herman's soup Kitchen in Cleveland (Sat. Jan. 4th 2020 -12 and over 50\$pp); Ski Trip (TBA), Lenten event,(TBA), Summer Camp out, etc.

Hospitality Team had a meeting this past Tuesday with 8 in attendance. The team reflected on the years events and is making recommendations for next year regarding our fundraisers. The team is asking everyone to be active in cleaning up following coffee hour. Also, don't forget to sign up for holy supper this week and next.

Outreach Team The goal of the OT is to make people in our community familiar with the Orthodox Faith.

Events: the blessing of French Creek (**Tues. Jan 7th**), and the Blessing of Lake Erie with other churches in Erie (**Jan. 25th 12 noon** - Lunch at VB -Erie).

Orthodox Bible Study - **Feb.6th, 2020** VBrewery in Meadville

Parish Council welcomes new elected members. There will be a prayer of blessing and commissioning on **Sun. Jan.5th 2020** for all council members. Council is also seeking members of the parish to be on a planning team for the upcoming 100th year anniversary to be held in 2021. Council is also looking for 2 auditors. If you are interested in being on any team of the parish please let parish council Pres. Nathan or Fr. Daniel know.

Choir - The Choir is encouraging youth and families to participate in the Matins service, the Wed. Evening prayer

services and Sat. Great Vespers, with their voices and serving in the altar. Having more understandable language and more opportunities to serve and pray will encourage our young people to participate more fully. Choir party Jan 7th

Ladies Altar Society will be meeting this month on Dec. 22nd following Coffee Hour. They continue to make pirogues and are meeting for prayer and social events monthly. Please see Tanya for more information.

Holy Supper - if you have not attended in years past... this is a wonderful family event that reminds us of our history and orthodox heritage from the old country of holy Rus, and all the Nativity scriptures are read, the different foods served teach us about the incarnation of God.

Calendars - Yearly Calendars are available. They were paid for by a local funeral home. Could you please make a donation for one of these beautiful calendars, all the donations will go toward the Missions Trip to Alaska.

HOLY FATHERS:

The flood of temporal things draws us after itself, but in this flood there is, as it were, a full-grown tree: our Lord Jesus Christ. He took flesh, died, and ascended to heaven. It is as if He agreed to be in the flood of the temporal. Is this stream dragging you headlong? Hold on to Christ. He became temporal for you, so that you might become eternal, for He became temporal in such a way that He remained eternal. What difference is there between two men in a prison when one of the is a convict and the other a visitor! Sometimes a man comes to visit his friend, and it seems that both are in prison, but there is a great difference between them. One of them is held there because of guilt, while the other has come out of love for mankind. Thus it is with our mortality: guilt holds us here, but Christ had come out of mercy. He came freely into bondage, and not as a convict.

(St. Augustin, Sermons on I John, II.10).

It is only necessary to seek one thing: to be with Jesus. The man who remains with Jesus is rich, even if he is poor with regard to material things. Who ever desires the earthly more than the heavenly loses both the earthly and the heavenly. But whoever seeks the heavenly is Lord of the whole world.

(St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, Patericon)

Pride does not allow the soul to set out on the path of faith. Here is my advice to the unbeliever: let him say, "Lord, if you exist, then illumine me, and I will serve you with all my heart and soul." And for this humble thought and readiness to serve God, the Lord will immediately illumine him... And then your soul will sense the Lord; she will sense that the Lord has forgiven her, and loves her, and you will know this from experience, and the grace of the Holy Spirit will be a witness in your soul of your salvation, and you will want to cry out to the whole world: "The Lord loves us so much!"

(St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, III.6)

If someone wants to be protected from tricks and remain healthy in the faith, he must confine his faith first to the authority of the Holy Scriptures, and secondly to the Tradition of the Church. But someone may ask, is not the canon of Scripture sufficient for everything, and why should we add thereto the authority of Tradition? This is because not everyone understands the Scriptures in the same way, but one explains them this way and another that way, so that it is possible to get therefrom as many thoughts as there are heads. Therefore it is necessary to be guided by the understanding of the Church ... What is tradition? It is that which has been understood by everyone, everywhere and at all times ... that which you have received, and not that which you have thought up ... So then, our job is not to lead religion where we wish it to go, but to follow it where it leads, and not to give that which is our own to our heirs, but to guard that which has been given to us.

(St. Vincent of Lerina, Notes of a Pilgrim)