

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 1.1

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 6, 2013

CHRISTMAS EVE &

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF OUR LORD

### PARISH CALENDAR HI-LITES

*Please see monthly calendar for all events*

SUN., JAN. 6 VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.  
Sunday of Holy Forefathers.

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Propers. See Handouts

*Fast from Meat today*

8:00 PM Great Compline for the Nativity of Our Lord.

MON., JAN. 7 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - pp. 132-135.

Tue., Jan. 8 *Synaxis of Holy Mary Theotokos*

9:00 at St. George's, Taylor. Divine Liturgy

Wed., Jan. 9 *St. Stephen the First Martyr*

9:00 at St. George's, Taylor. Divine Liturgy

*No Fast this week*

Sat., Jan. 12 Saturday after Christmas

5:00 PM Vespers

### FEASTS & FASTS

**Christmas Eve - Today** Fast from Meat only.

**Theophany Eve**, Jan. 18 civil calendar (Jan. 5 Julian) is a day of Strict Fast, as we prepare for the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord in the Jordan.

**Feasts:** The Feasts of Christmas and Theophany are

the two most important commemorations of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ, reminding us that God so loved the world that He gave his only-begotten Son. As we celebrate these feasts, we do *not* fast between Christmas day and Theophany Eve. It is not proper to fast and mourn while the Bridegroom resides with us.

THE HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: I am always available for Confessions after any weekday service unless otherwise noted. I note this especially on the December Calendar just as a reminder that it is ESPECIALLY important that we receive the Mystery of Confession sometime during the Christmas Fast, in preparation for the celebration of the great feasts of Our Lord's Birth and his Theophany. If it is not possible for you to make any of the scheduled Confession times, you can make an appointment with me for Confession.

### PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Living:* Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Jennifer Collins. Susan Danchak. Louis & Terri DiMichele. John & Jen Hrywnak. Gary Joyce. Joseph Kacaba. Lorraine Kacaba. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater Kathryn Stocoski. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tighe. Gary Wassel. Julia Worobey.

*At Home:* Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. Steve & Julie Roberts. George & Anna Senich.

*In Assisted Living Homes:* Kathryn Derenick. Julie Kovacs. Irene Munchak. Julie Soares.

*Altar Vigil Candles:* Memory of Mary Mlakar - Marge Bednar

*Eternal Light:* Memory of Mary Mlakar - Marge Bednar

## PARISH EVENTS

**2013 CHURCH ENVELOPES & CHURCH CALENDARS** are available for pick up in the Church hall.

**Thank You and God bless** to all who remembered me in your prayers, cards and gifts for this Christmas season. May you have a blessed celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord and may you all have a blessed New Year!

**Fr. Nik will be away** for a couple of days. A critical family surgery is scheduled for tomorrow (hospitals don't recognize Old Calendar Christmas) and I need to be there. I plan to be back before the end of the week, assuming all goes well.

Divine Liturgy for the two days after Christmas is available at St. George's at 9 AM (see calendar).

If you have an emergency, you can call me on my cell phone. Also please call Fr. Mark Leasure at 570-562-1170.

**Christmas Cookie Walk Profit!** The total collected from the Cookie Walk was \$940! Very well done!

Carol Pugh, President of the Altar Society: Thanks to Everyone who took the time to bake and to those who were there to help set up, greet the people coming in, and sell the baked goods. Because of Each of You it was a Very Successful day!

**Charity Collection!** I spoke about this charity need last Sunday. You received a copy of the letter that I received from *Bread Basket*, which supplies the local food banks around our area. This letter requests help with buying hams for Christmas for those in our area who are in need. This special collection will be taken at the end of the sermon today, separately from the general collection. Please allow yourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit in deciding how much to give.

## INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

As of November 30, 2012, the Income and Expense year-to-date totals are as follows:

Total Income	\$84235.82
Total Expenses	<u>\$97458.06</u>
<b>Net Loss YTD</b>	<b>(13222.24)</b>

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

### December 23, 2012

\$ 1017.32	General Collection
\$ 98.00	Holy Days
\$ 95.00	7 Day Light
\$ 2806.00	Pirohi
\$ 78.00	Flowers
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 10.00	Vigil Light
\$ 352.62	Church Dues
\$ 40.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 358.00	Bread Basket Donation
<b>\$ 4861.94</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

### December 30, 2012

\$ 340.00	General Collection
\$ 20.00	Holy Days
\$ 54.00	7 Day Light
\$ 14.00	Pirohi
\$ 45.00	Flowers
\$ 5.00	Vigil Light
\$ 88.00	Church Dues
\$ 8.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 5.00	Heat Offering
<b>\$ 579.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

## AROUND AND ABOUT

**Malanka!** NEPA's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ukrainian New Year Dinner Dinner. Friday evening, Jan. 11, 6 PM to 1 AM at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Parish Center, 728 North Seventh Ave., Scranton.

The festive evening will include a generous Ukrainian and American dinner buffet catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers, cash bar, complimentary bubbly toast and dancing to the internationally known Ukrainian orchestra "Fata Morgana". Attractive door prizes will also be awarded.

Tickets are \$40.00 per person. For reservations or additional information contact Michael Trusz at 489-1256.

**Ecumenical Service for the Worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25).** Most Rev. Joseph Bambera, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton, invites all to an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on Thursday, Jan. 24, 12:10 PM, at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Cathedral, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA. Right Rev. Bernard Nowicki, new bishop of the Central Diocese of the Polish National Church, will be the homilist. Liturgical Music by Our Lady of Peace School Choir. All are welcome to participate in this ecumenical event.

### DIOCESAN NEWS

**ACRY Lots-O-Luck Calendars** now available. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year that the ACRY has run this fundraiser for the benefit of our diocese, raising over \$200,000 in that time!

- See Millie Orzolek for your calendar.
- Deadline for purchasing is January 15, so get yours today!

### THE HIDDEN ASPECT OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

By Matthew the Poor (fr: "Communion of Love")

But now we shall consider what took place invisibly on the day Christ was born. It has been overwhelming demonstrated on the stage of history and time, as well as in the hearts of the Apostles, the saints, and the whole Church, that He who was born was indeed the coming King, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Bearer of the key to the house of David, who when He closes no one can open, and when He opens no one can close. This is an everlasting Kingdom which will never pass away, according to the vision of the prophet Daniel (cf. Dn. 6:26). This is the other aspect of the birth of Christ, for in Christ was fulfilled God's promise of the beginning of the age of salvation, and the manifestation on earth of the Kingdom of God, guided and governed by Him; this was the Kingdom spoken of tirelessly by the prophets. The hosts of heaven declared salvation: "There is born to you a Savior," and the Magi declared the everlasting Kingdom: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? .. We have come to worship

Him" (Mt. 2:2).

So we can behold the hidden face of the day of the Nativity: Thrones were destroyed and others set up. One age ended and another began, as the Virgin Mary said in her immortal song of praise: "He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree." "He has shown strength with His arm" (Lk. 1:52,51). At the Annunciation the angel also declared clearly and gloriously, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of the Jacob forever; and of His Kingdom there will be no end" (Lk. 1:32,33). How amazing that the saving Kingdom of Christ should be proclaimed while He was still in the womb, and confirmed in many ways, first by the angel, then by the Virgin at the beginning of her pregnancy, and then by Zechariah the priest, and by Elizabeth. On the day of His birth it was reconfirmed by the heavenly hosts and the Magi, who bore the hardships of their long journey so that they might see the King of the Jews and worship Him, and present gifts expressing the essence of their faith in His Kingdom.

#### CarpathoRussian

Christos Razhdayetsya!	Christ is Born!
Slavite Yeho!	Glorify Him!

#### Greek

Christos Gennatai!	Christ is Born!
Doxasate!	Give Glory!

#### Serbian

Hristos se Rodi !	Christ is Born!
Voistinu se Rodi!	Indeed He is Born!

#### Russian

Kristos Rozhdaetsya !	Christ is Born!
Slav'te ego!	Glorify Him!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>St. Nicholas Orthodox Church</h1> <h2>January 2013</h2>						
		1	2	3	4	<b>5</b> Saturday Before Christmas  5 PM Vespers Confessions
<b>6</b> Christmas Eve  9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  8:00 PM Christmas Carols Great Compline	<b>7</b> NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	<b>8</b> <i>Synaxis of Holy Mary Theotokos</i>  9 AM <i>At St. George's -</i> <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	<b>9</b> <i>St. Stephen First-martyr</i>  9 AM <i>At St. George's -</i> <i>Divine Liturgy</i>  <i>No Fast</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Holy Innocents  <i>No Fast</i>	<b>12</b> Saturday After Christmas & Before Theophany  5 PM Vespers
<b>13</b> Sunday After Christmas 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Church School - Elementary Altar Society Meeting Men's Club Meeting 5 PM Great Vespers	<b>14</b> Circumcision of Our Lord. St. Basil the Great  9 AM Divine Liturgy	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Nun Genevieve  <i>No Fast</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Vigil of Theophany</i>  7 PM Great Compline & Blessing of Water	<b>19</b> THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD  9 AM Divine Liturgy  5 PM Vespers
<b>20</b> Synaxis of St. John. Sunday after Theophany  9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Board Meeting	<b>21</b> Confessor Emilian  Noon House Blessings	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Bishop Gregory of Nyssa  <i>6 AM Pirohi Prep</i>  Noon House Blessings	<b>24</b> Monk Theodosius  <i>9 AM Pirohi Making</i>	<b>25</b> Martyr Tatiana  <i>9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Pirohi Sale</i>  Noon House Blessings	<b>26</b> Saturday After Theophany  5 PM Vespers
<b>27</b> Leave-taking of Theophany. Ss. Sava & Nina  9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Church School - Elementary & High School	<b>28</b> Monks Paul & John  Noon House Blessings	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Monk Anthony the Great  Noon House Blessings	<b>31</b>	<b>2/1</b> Monk Macarios  Noon House Blessings	<b>2/2</b> Bishop Leo the Great  5 PM Vespers

**SUNDAY OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF THE LORD**  
**VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**HOLY GREAT MARTYR EUGENIA**

**Tropar of the Resurrection - Tone 6**

Angelic powers were before your grave, \* and the guards became like dead men. \* Mary stood at the grave \* seeking your most pure body. \* You captured death, but were not tempted by it. \* O Giver of Life, You met the virgin. \* O Lord, You arose from the dead. \* Glory to You!

**Tropar of the Holy Fathers - Tone 2**

Great are the deeds performed with faith; \* three youths rejoiced in the flaming furnace \* as if they stood in refreshing waters. \* And Daniel the prophet faced lions as though they were sheep. \* Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

**Tropar of Preparation - Tone 4**

At that time Mary registered with the venerable Joseph in Bethlehem\* since she was of the house of David.\* She was with child, having conceived without seed.\* When the time for her delivery drew near,\* they could find no room in the inn,\* but the cave seemed a joyful palace for the Queen.\* Christ is born to renew the likeness that had been lost of old.

**Tropar of Eugenia - Tone 8**

In you, O venerable Mother Eugenia, the faithful image of God shone forth,\* for you carried your cross and followed Christ.\* You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away,\* and how to value the soul, for it is immortal.\* Therefore, your soul is forever in happiness with the angels.

**Kondak of the Three Youths - Tone 6**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

You did not worship a man-made image, O thrice-blessed Youths, \* but were glorified in the test of fire, \* protected by a power beyond description. \* From the searing flames you cried out to God, saying: \* "Hasten to help us, O merciful Lord, \* for in your greatness You can do whatever You will."

**Kondak of Preparation - Tone 3**

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave\* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding\* to the Word Who is in all eternity.\* Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded.\* With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him Who chose to be seen as a newborn babe\* while remaining God in all eternity.

**Prokimen - Tone 4**

Blessed are You and praiseworthy, O Lord the God of our fathers, and glorious forever is your Name.

*Reader:* In all that You have done, your justice is apparent.

**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

**Alleluia - Tone 4**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Reader:* We heard with our own ears, O God, and our fathers have told us of the things You did in their time.

*Reader:* You saved us from our foes, You put our enemies to shame.

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:1-25

**Communion Hymn**

*For Sunday:* “Praise the Lord...”

*For the Fathers:* Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous: praise befits the upright. Alleluia!

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
621 Vine St.  
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