

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 1.2

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., pastor
Rectory: 570-344-5917
Cell: 724-953-6046

Hall - 570-344-1522
www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org
nferencz35@gmail.com

January 13, 2013

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS AND
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

PARISH CALENDAR HI-LITES

Please see monthly calendar for all events

Sun., Jan. 13 Last Day of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. Martyr Melania.

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Propers. See Handouts.

Men's Club meets today.

Altar Society meets today.

Church School (Elementary) meets today.

Schedule Change: Vespers for St. Basil & Circumcision is canceled.

MON., JAN. 14 FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD. ST. BASIL THE GREAT.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Page 140-141.

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Fri., Jan. 18 7:00 PM Great Compline & the Blessing of Water

Sat., Jan. 19 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
5:00 PM Vespers

Sun., Jan. 20 Sunday After Theophany. Synaxis of St. John the Baptist.

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Propers. See Handouts.

Parish Board meets today.

FEASTS & FASTS

STRICT FAST: 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.

ORDINARY FAST: after the celebration of Theophany next Saturday, we return to the usual time of year, where we merely are required to fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

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

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

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

Altar Vigil Candles: Safety of Douglas Orzolek in India - Walter & Mildred Orzolek.

Panachida: Memory of Marion Pucher - Pucher & Roberts families

PARISH EVENTS

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

Men's Club meets today.

Altar Society meets today.

Church School - Elementary - meets today.

Everything went well while I was away this week. Thank you for your prayers and concern.

Parish Board meets next Sunday.

House Blessings: You may have noticed that I have blocked off certain days for House Blessings. I am figuring where to go for this year's blessings now. As of now, I am thinking that I will do what I did last year: start close by and work my way out, since the weather seems to be cooperating. Look for more information in future bulletins.

PIROHI STARTS AGAIN! Please don't forget that Pirohi Making is just around the corner. We begin the Week of January 20 (check the parish calendar), so please be sure to give us a hand. Thanks!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

January 6, 2013

\$ 967.00	General Collection
\$ 347.50	Holy Days
\$ 92.00	7 Day Light
\$ 145.00	Flowers
\$ 302.50	Christmas
\$ 200.00	First Sunday
\$ 25.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 2079.00	Total Collection

January 7, 2013

\$ 72.00	General Collection
\$ 39.00	Holy Days
\$ 34.00	7 Day Light
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 983.00	Christmas
\$ 38.00	First Sunday
\$ 1256.00	Total Collection

AROUND AND ABOUT

St. Michael's Annual Festival of Hearts Dinner Dance
Saturday, February 9, 2013

- 5:00 to 6:00pm: Champagne & Hors D'oeuvres
- 6:00 to 7:00pm: Turkey Dinner, Dressing & Holubki
- 7:00 to 10:00pm: Dancing to the music of "Brotherhood"
- Price is \$30 per person. Seating is reserved with round tables of eight (8).
- The band is located on the floor in a gazebo with round tables surrounding the dance floor with a night club atmosphere.
- Contact 607-729-1283 for reservations.
- St. Michael's Recreation Center, 296 Binghamton, NY 13905

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 21st 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!

MARCH FOR LIFE - The annual March for Life takes place on January 25. All are encouraged to participate. Details regarding the March for Life can be found on the diocesan website www.acrod.org. As in past years, Fr. Peter & the Resurrection parish of Potomac, MD, offers the following message:

"With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Gregory,

Holy Resurrection Church in Potomac will once again host a light meal for those coming to the March for Life in Washington, DC on Friday, 25 January. All of our diocesan faithful coming to the Nation's Capital, as parish groups or individuals, are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Fr. Peter Zarynow (frzarynow@gmail.com) NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 18 JANUARY. The parish needs a headcount so that they will know how much food to prepare."

OTHER STUFF

Seeing all our out-of-town guests over Christmas reminded me to republish a little note I wrote back in July regarding Church etiquette:

KNEELING AND STANDING IN CHURCH

From Pentecost Sunday to Easter Sunday, the faithful are permitted to kneel in worship and in private prayer. In this parish it has been a custom among most people to kneel at various times during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. If this is your piety, you may certainly do so.

However, there are other people, especially if they come from another Orthodox tradition, who are accustomed to not kneeling but standing for prayer on Sundays, even in the Divine Liturgy. This custom is also perfectly acceptable. It is OK if some people are doing something different from others in this case.

Standing in worship on Sunday is in fact the more ancient tradition. It is noted in the 1st Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325. AD (canon 20) and again in the 6th Ecumenical Council of Trullo (canon 90). St. Basil says that we do this because every Sunday is the day of Resurrection (in Slavonic the word for "Sunday" is "Voskresenije," which means "Resurrection Day.").

(note - it is a rule of standing on Sunday, during all services, not a rule about standing during the Divine Liturgy. For instance, one may stand during the Liturgy on Sunday and still kneel during Liturgy on a weekday)

Sometimes some people cannot kneel because of physical infirmity. These folks should then remain standing when others are kneeling. It is not appropriate to sit during these solemn moments of the Liturgy, just so that their head is level with everyone else's. If, of

course, your infirmity does not permit you to stand for lengthy periods of time, then by all means sit. That's what the pews are for.

So, kneel, or stand in prayer on Sundays, whichever your own piety requires. Either is acceptable and right in your worship of the Lord.

ENTERING THE CHURCH & CANDLE-LIGHTING

When we enter the church, the first place that we go to is the table where the St. Nicholas icon or the Feast-day icon is. There we reverence the icon with a kiss, and may then venerate the other icons in the front of the church. If we wish, we may light a candle (see the next paragraph) and then go to wherever we wish to be for the Liturgy.

On Candle Lighting: Many Orthodox Christians light a candle upon entering church. This simple act is deeply meaningful. It means that in the liturgy when the word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit will come to remove the veil (2 Cor. 3:15 and 4:6) of blindness from our eyes, the veil of lack of understanding and make the light of Christ shine in our hearts. Lighting a candle on entering church expresses our belief that Jesus is the Light of the World and that as His disciple, I am called daily to reflect His light in my life. It reminds us that when we were baptized we received Jesus Who is the Light of the World. Like Him, instead of cursing the darkness, we are to be lighting candles of hope and love in the lives of people. As we light that candle on entering the church we can pray the beautiful words of the Psalmist, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

Further, we light candles for various intentions: for the living, for the deceased, for whomever we wish to pray. The candle represents our sacrificial offering to the Lord on behalf of that person. Many people see the burning of the candle as representing their own prayers for as long as it burns.

CarpathoRussian

Christos Razhdayetsya! Christ is Born!

Slavite Yeho!

Glorify Him!

Greek

Christos Gennatai!
Doxasate!

Christ is Born!
Give Glory!

Serbian

Hristos se Rodi !
Voistinu se Rodi!

Christ is Born!
Indeed He is Born!

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS:

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY AND JUST JOSEPH, KING DAVID AND JAMES, COUSIN OF THE LORD.

ALSO, SUNDAY IN PREPARATION FOR THEOPHANY

1st Antiphon

I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart: * I will speak of all your marvelous works.

Through the prayers of the Birth-giver of God, O Savior, save us.

In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation * the works of the Lord are great.

Through the prayers of the Birth-giver of God, O Savior, save us.

They are sought out * according to all his purposes.

Through the prayers of the Birth-giver of God, O Savior, save us.

His work is honorable and glorious * and his righteousness endures forever.

Through the prayers of the Birth-giver of God, O Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, * now and ever and forever. Amen.

Through the prayers of the Birth-giver of God, O Savior, save us.

2nd Antiphon

Blessed is the man that fears the Lord, * that delights greatly in his commandments.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

His seed shall be mighty upon the earth, * the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in his house * and his righteousness endures forever.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness: * He is gracious, compassionate and righteous.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen. O Only begotten Son and Word of God, Who being immortal, willed for the sake of our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Birth-giver of God and ever-Virgin Mary, and without change became man, and was crucified for us, O Christ God, Who by your death did conquer death. O You Who are One of the Holy Trinity, equally glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

3rd Antiphon

Come let us sing joyfully to the Lord; * let us shout with joy to God our Savior.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, * and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

For God is a great Lord, * and a great King over all the earth.

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn

O come let us adore and bow down before Christ,

O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You. Alleluia.

Tropar of the Resurrection - Tone 7

You have destroyed death by your Cross. * You opened Paradise to the thief. * You changed the weeping of the myrrh-bearers to joy. * You commanded your apostles to proclaim: * "Christ our God has risen, * granting great mercy to the world."

Tropar of Christmas - Tone 4

Your Birth, O Christ our God, * has shown forth the light of knowledge to the world, * for through it those who studied the stars * learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Truth, * and to acknowledge You, rising from on high. * O Lord, glory to You.

Tropar of the Saints - Tone 2

O Joseph, announce to David, ancestor of Christ, * the good news of these wonders you have seen: * a Virgin giving birth to a Child. * With the shepherds you have glorified Him; * with the Wise Men you have worshiped Him; * and an angel appeared to you. * Ask Christ to save our souls.

Tropar of the Preparation for Theophany - Tone 4

Make ready, O Zabulon, * and prepare yourself, O Naphthali! * O River Jordan, stop and receive with joy * the Master coming to be baptized. * O Adam, rejoice with the first mother, Eve, * and do not hide yourselves as before in Paradise. * For, having seen you unclothed, * Christ has appeared to clothe you with the first robe. * He has appeared to renew all creation.

Kondak of the Saints - Tone 3

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

Today, David beloved of God, is filled with joy; * Joseph and James offer hymns of praise; * their joy is the crown of relationship with Christ. * They sing praise to Him Who was wondrously born. * And they cry out: "O merciful Lord, save those who honor You."

Kondak of the Preparation for Theophany - Tone 4

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Today the Lord stood in Jordan's current telling John: * "Do not be afraid to baptize Me, * for I have come to save Adam, the first man."

Prokimen of the Resurrection - Tone 7

The Lord will give strength to his people, * and the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Reader: Ascribe to the Lord, O you sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Prokimen of the Saints - Tone 4

God is wondrous in his saints; the God of Israel.

Do not repeat above Prokimen, but immediately sing the next one.

Prokimen of the Preparation for Theophany - Tone 6

O Lord, save your people, and bless your inheritance, * and bless your inheritance.

Epistles:

Sunday after Christmas (for the Saints): Galatians 11:1-19

Sunday in Preparation for Theophany: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Alleluia of the Resurrection, Saints & of the Preparation - Tone 4

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your Name, O Most High!

Reader: To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Reader: O Lord, remember David and all the hardships he endured.

Reader: The oath he swore to the Lord, his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

Reader: O God, be gracious to us and bless us.

Reader: Let your Face shine its light upon us and have mercy on us.

Gospels:

Sunday after Christmas: Matthew 2:13-23

Sunday of the Preparation: Mark 1:1-8

Glorification and Irmos (Instead of "You are truly deserving")

Magnify, O my soul, her who is greater in honor and more glorious than the hosts on high.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. * The cave has become heaven, the throne of the cherubim, the Virgin.

* The manger, a noble place, * where lies Christ our God who cannot be contained. * Let us praise Him in song and magnify You.

2nd Communion Hymn

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

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
621 Vine St.
Scranton, PA 18510