

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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November 25, 2012

25RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR HI-LITES

Please see monthly calendar for all events

Sun., Nov. 25 8th Sunday of Luke. Patriarch John the Merciful

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Tone 8 pp 102-104.

Church School - High School Class

Tue., Nov. 27 Holy Apostle Philip

10 AM *At the Cathedral in Johnstown:*
Ordination of Bishop-elect Gregory Tatsis

Fri., Nov. 30 Bishop Gregory the Wonderworker

9:30 - 4:30 Pirohi Sale

Sat., Dec. 1 Martyrs Plato & Roman

5:00 PM Vespers.

Sun., Dec. 2 9th Sunday of Luke. Prophet Obadiah

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Tone 1 pp 81-83.

Church School - Elementary

Altar Society Meeting

FEASTS & FASTS

Philipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent) begins on Wednesday, Nov. 28 civil calendar (Nov. 15 Julian) and goes until Christmas Eve, January 6 civil (Dec. 24 Julian). It is called Philip's Fast because it begins the day after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle on Nov. 14/27. The **Traditional Fast** requires: (a) Strict Fast (no meat, dairy, and in some places no wine or oil) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; (b) no meat on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The MINIMUM

Diocesan Rule is no meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Christmas Eve is ordinarily a DAY OF STRICT FAST in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord. *However*, this year, because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is not a Strict Fast Day. We only fast from meat on Christmas Eve. However, we must keep STRICT FAST on the previous Friday, Jan. 4 civil calendar (Dec. 22 Julian)

No dispensation has been granted from fasting on Dec. 24, 25, or Jan. 1 (civil calendar).

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE is on Tuesday, Dec. 4 civil (Nov. 21 Julian). See Calendar for services

THE HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: I am always available for Confessions after any weekday service. 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. You have a number of opportunities to celebrate this Mystery, so please plan ahead.

If it is not possible for you to make any of the scheduled Confession times, you can make an appointment with me for Confession.

CALENDAR EVENTS LOOKING AHEAD

Pirohi Sales scheduled December 14 & December 21. Don't forget to mark these weeks on your calendar.

ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET will be Sunday, December 16. See below for details

ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING Sunday, Dec. 2

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Metropolitan Nicholas.

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Susan Danchak. 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 Tigue. 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.

PARISH EVENTS

HI-SCHOOL CHURCH SCHOOL meets today.

Fr. Nik will be away from Monday, Nov. 26 through Wednesday, Nov. 28, attending the ordination of the new diocesan bishop. If there is an emergency, please call me on my cell phone & I will try to arrange for a priest to take care of you. Quite frankly, at this point I have no idea who would actually be available in the area.

PIROHI SALE this week. Early Wednesday morning prep, Thursday morning making & Friday sale. Come on down and give us a hand!

Friendship House Secret Santa names! If you went to pick up a name tag in the hall last Sunday, you may have noted some changes from previous years. Apparently all of the children appear to be teenagers rather than little ones. If you wish to donate a gift, but feel that the price tag may be a bit out of your reach, you can get a Gift Certificate from a store that would sell that gift (e.g., Best Buy for an electronic gift, etc.) in the \$25 - \$30 (or more if you wish) price range.

Your generosity will help make a better Christmas for kids who are "at-risk" - coming from broken homes, abuse and a variety of problems in their lives. Thank you for being willing to show these children that someone out there cares!

ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET: Sunday, Dec. 16. Appetizers start as usual after the Liturgy, and the banquet will begin about Noon.

Everyone will be receiving a letter with details,

tickets, etc. in the mail. The menu includes a Roast Beef & Holubki Dinner. Meal prices are \$12/adult, \$5/child.

We hope to see everyone there!

Christmas Cookie Walk! The Altar Society will host a Cookie (and Treats) walk:

1. Friday December 21st
2. 9:30 A.M. until Sold Out
3. REQUESTS!!!: We are in need of baked goods for this sale: Assorted Cookies, breads, cakes, cupcakes, sugar free items...whatever your specialty is! If we start baking *now*, we will have plenty of time to bake and set it aside!
4. **Note!** If you bake ahead of time, we can keep your goodies in the freezer here at the church. See Carol Pugh about arrangements.
5. It will help a lot if we know what you are bringing. There will be sign up sheets in the hall. Please watch for them.
6. Please bring your bring baked goods by Thursday December 20th.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

November 18, 2012

\$ 518.00	General Collection
\$ 16.00	Holy Days
\$ 88.00	Church Dues
\$ 93.00	7 Day Light
\$ 1253.00	Pirohi
\$ 123.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 200.00	Donation
\$ 5.00	Heat Offering
\$ 2296.00	Total Collection

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!

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

Ordination of Bishop Elect Gregory this coming Tuesday, Nov. 27. Please pray that God may guide our new bishop as he guides our Church.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>St. Nicholas Orthodox Church</h1> <h2>December 2012</h2>					30 Bp. Gregory the Wonderworker <i>9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Pirohi Sale</i>	1 Mar. Plato & Roman 5 PM Vespers
2 Prophet Obadiah 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Church School - Elementary Altar Society Mtg	3 Pre-Feast of Entrance 5 PM Vespers with Litija Confessions	4 ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY INTO TEMPLE 9 AM Divine Liturgy	5	6	7	8 Last Day of Feast of Entrance. Mar. Bp. Clement 5 PM Vespers Confessions
9 Monk Alupius 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Men's Club Meeting	10	11	12 Martyr Paramon <i>Pirohi Prep</i>	13 Apostle Andrew <i>Pirohi Making</i>	14 Prophet Nahum <i>9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Pirohi Sale</i>	15 Prophet Habbakuk 5 PM Vespers Confessions
16 Prophet Zephaniah 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy <i>ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET</i>	17	18 Monk Sabbas 5 PM Vespers with Litija Confessions	19 ABP. NICHOLAS OF MYRA 9 AM Divine Liturgy Confessions <i>Pirohi Prep</i>	20 Bishop Ambrose <i>Pirohi Making</i>	21 Pre-Feast of Conception. <i>9:30 AM - 4:30 PM Pirohi Sale & Cookie Walk!</i>	22 Conception by St. Ann of Holy Mary 5 PM Vespers Confessions
23 Martyr Menas et al. 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Board Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>No Vespers Today</i>
30 Holy Ancestors of the Lord. Prophet Daniel et al. 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5 Saturday before Christmas 5 PM Vespers Confessions

THE GREEK (EASTERN) ORTHODOX CHURCH:

WHAT'S IN OUR NAME? (PART THREE)

By the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Stephanopoulos, Ph.D.

Fr. Stephanopoulos is the father of George Stephanopoulos, the ABC network newscaster. Fr. Robert is a highly respected theologian and was a professor at Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary for many years. This is the second part of an article written around 1992.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH TODAY

The Orthodox Church today is a communion of self governing Churches, each administratively independent of the other, but united by a common faith and spirituality. Their underlying unity is based on identity of doctrines, sacramental life and worship, which distinguishes Orthodox Christianity. All recognize the spiritual preeminence of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople who is acknowledged as primus inter pares, first among equals. All share full communion with one another. The living tradition of the Church and the principles of concord and harmony are expressed through the common mind of the universal episcopate as the need arises. In all other matters, the internal life of each independent Church is administered by the bishops of that particular Church. Following the ancient principle of the one people of God in each place and the universal priesthood of all believers, the laity share equally in the responsibility for the preservation and propagation of the Christian faith and Church.

In addition to the four ancient Patriarchates of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem with their several geographic and ecclesiastical subdivisions, there are also many independent or autocephalous Orthodox Christian Churches. These include the Churches of Russia, Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Georgia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, Albania and Sinai. Smaller autonomous Orthodox Churches and missions can be found on every continent throughout the world.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The life of an individual Christian is understood in the context of the community of the faithful. Each person is called to live the godly life and to advance in spiritual and moral growth into the fullness of the Divine Life itself, by grace.

Salvation is seen as a process begun at Baptism and continuing until death. The Commandments and the express Will of God are the criteria for ethical conduct and spiritual elevation. The aim of Christian piety is union with God, and our cooperation with Divine Grace is necessary to this union. The struggle and the effort to live in God involves a constant ascent, away from the temptations and ambiguities of a sinful and distorted human condition to the eternal glory of the Kingdom of God. This possibility is given to everyone in Jesus Christ and His Church. It is a daily mystical and ascetical effort of obedience and faith in cooperation with divine grace.

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