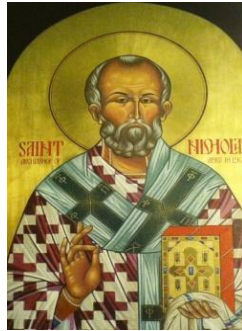


The Saint Nicholas Chronicle



ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18510

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Church Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Nicholas-Orthodox-Church-Scranton-270842650055874>
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<https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
Youtube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 2017 - Sunday of the Holy Fathers / Martyr Sebastian

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday December 31 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers (*Sunday before The Nativity*) / Martyr Sebastian

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Hymns – Tropar Tone 5 (Blue Pew Book p. 93) / Special Hymns – p. 129

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 **Gospel:** Matthew 1:1-25

Panachida for Steve and Julie Roberts given by Andrew Barnett.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Saturday January 6, 2018 --- *Christmas Eve*

9:00 AM – Vespertal Liturgy of Saint Basil

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM --- Confession

7:00 PM – 7:45 PM --- Confession

8:00 PM – Vigil Service for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Please remember that
Christmas Eve is a day of
strict fast.

Sunday January 7, 2018 --- *Christmas Day*

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Special Hymns – (Blue Pew Book) pp. 132-135

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 **Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

[PLEASE NOTE THAT NO CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD ON CHRISTMAS DAY. THANK YOU!]

When you come for Confession, please prepare yourself and sit in the front pew. If you cannot make the scheduled times, please let me know and we can set up a time that is convenient for you. Thank you!

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Living : Fr. Lawrence Barriger. Fr. Michael Polanichka. Fr. John Gido. Fr. George Hutnyan. Fr. James Gleason. Fr. Tom Kadlec. Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Jonathan Tobias. Fr. Michael Rustick. Fr. John Baranik. Fr. Nicholas Wyborski. Fr. John Zboyovski. Fr. Robert E. Lucas. Deacon James Phifer. Pani Donna Smoley. Pani Linda Barriger. Pani Constance Miloro. Pani Amy George. Pani Peggy Teklinski. Reese: Eric, Tamsen, James, Gineva, Benjamin, and Thomas. Stephen Barnett. Ann Richardson. Joseph Kacaba. Lorraine Kacaba. Lovie Swingle. Stephanie Bonk. Joseph Majcher Sr. Joseph Majcher Jr. Bill Wassel. Owen Bonn. Gloria Bracey. Susan Danchak. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Madelyn Hodanich. Margaret Skotlewski. Johnny Huniyack. Anna Mae Kuklis. Maryann Ludwig. Rose Markiewicz. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Faye Snell. Russell Spilka. Rita Sher. Jeff Thomas. Janet Pugh. AnnMarie Tigie. Gary Wassel. Michael Coviello. Mary Kay Wroblewsky.

At home : Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. Ann Richardson. Anna Senich.

Assisted Living : Marion Sosnowski. Delores Naglak. Susan Danchak.

Eternal light : In memory of Steve and Julie Roberts given by Andrew Barnett.

Parish Life

FILL UP THE BREADBASKETS OF NEPA!

Please remember those families who rely upon food donations to help make ends meet! We have a food donation container in the Church Hall, and ***we need your help*** to fill this container with non-perishable food items: cans, dry goods, etc.

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food...'"

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH:

December 24, 2017

\$1,027.00	General Collection
\$131.00	7 Day Light
\$105.00	Pirohi
\$7.00	Holy Days
\$105.00	Maintenance and Repairs
\$13.00	Taper Candles
\$100.00	Parking Donation
<u>\$185.00</u>	<u>Flowers</u>
\$1,673.00	Total Collection

Please note that the Church envelopes for 2018 are in. If you have not yet done so, please pick yours up in the Church Hall.

Also, **if you have not yet paid your Dues for 2017, please do so TODAY!** The final payment for all our members must be sent in to the Diocese today!

On **Sunday, January 14th, 2018** we will have the **induction of all** Parish Board, Men's Club, and Altar Society **officers** immediately following the Gospel reading. **Please note that any new officers** are required to come to the Sacraments (Confession and Communion) prior to that date. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

Beverly Thomas wishes to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all those who kept her in their prayers and who sent her get-well cards during her absence. She is truly grateful!

The Martyr Sebastian and his Companions

TEXT from: THE PROLOGUE of Ohrid

IMAGE from: stpaulbrisbane.org

“ This glorious saint was born in Italy and brought up in the city of Milan. While still young, he dedicated himself to military service. Being educated, handsome and courageous, he received the favor of Emperor Diocletian, who appointed him captain of his imperial guard. Secretly he confessed the Christian Faith and prayed to the Living God. As an honorable, just and merciful man, Sebastian was greatly beloved by his soldiers. Whenever he could, he saved Christians from torture and death, and, when he was unable to do so, he exhorted them to die for Christ the Living God without turning back.

Two brothers, Marcus and Marcellinus, who had been imprisoned for Christ and were already on the verge of denouncing Him and worshipping idols, were confirmed in the Faith by Sebastian, who strengthened them for martyrdom. As he spoke with them, encouraging them not to fear death for Christ, his face was illumined. Everyone saw his shining face, like that of an angel of God.

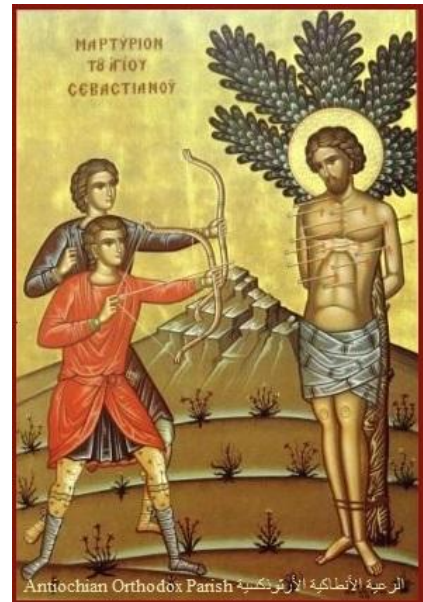
Sebastian also confirmed his words by miracles: he healed Zoe, the jailer Nicostratus's wife, who had been mute for six years; he brought her, Nicostratus and his entire household to baptism; he healed the two ailing sons of Claudius the commander and brought him and his household to baptism; he healed Tranquillinus, the father of Marcus and Marcellinus, of gout and pains in his legs which had troubled him for eleven years, and brought him to baptism together with his entire household; and he healed the Roman eparch Chromatius of the same illness and brought and his son Tiburtius to baptism.

The first of them to suffer was Saint Zoe, whom they seized at the tomb of the Apostle Peter, where she was praying to God. After torturing her, they threw her into the Tiber River. They then seized Tiburtius, and the judge placed live coals before him, telling him to choose between life and death, that is, either to cast incense on the coals and to cense the idols or to stand barefoot on the hot coals. Saint Tiburtius made the sign of the Cross, stood barefoot on the hot coals, and remained unharmed. After this, he was beheaded.

Nicostratus was killed with a stake, Tranquillinus was drowned, and Marcus and Marcellinus were tortured and pierced with spears. Then Sebastian was brought before Emperor Diocletian. The emperor rebuked him for his betrayal, but Sebastian said: 'I have always prayed to Christ for your health and for the peace of the Roman Empire.'

The emperor ordered that he be stripped naked and shot through with arrows. The soldiers shot him through with arrows until the martyr was so covered with arrows that his body was not seen because of them.

When all thought that he was dead, he appeared alive and completely healthy. Then the pagans killed him with staves. He suffered gloriously for Christ his Lord and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of Christ in the year 287 at the time of Diocletian the Emperor and Gaius Bishop of Rome. ”



Kontakion (Tone 8)

O Sebastian, by the shedding of your blood, * you were robed in martyrdom, * being arrayed in a robe of precious purple. * You took up your abode with Christ in His kingdom on high, * and with those who suffered by your side, * you received the crown of glory. * O wise Sebastian, as you sing with them, remember us.