

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 2.4

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 24, 2013

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

PARISH CALENDAR HI-LITES

Please see monthly calendar for all events

Sun., Feb. 24 Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee.
Martyred Bishop Blaise of Sebaste

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Sheet

Church School - Elementary & High School

75th Anniversary follow-up meeting in hall

No Fast This Week

Sat., Mar. 2 Great-martyr Theodore the Recruit

5:00 PM Vespers

Sun., Mar. 3 Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Bishop
Leo of Rome

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Sheet

PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST

FEASTS & FASTS

Fasting: This week after the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee is a *No Fast* week.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Susan Danchak. Louis & Terri DiMichele. Michael Danchak. Michael Hrywnak. John & Jen Hrywnak. 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.

Eternal Light: Memory of Charles Balisen by family.

Panachida: Margaret Howanetz - 40 day - by Pucher & Roberts families

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

February 17, 2012

\$ 741.00	General Collection
\$ 25.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 74.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 1440.00	Church Dues
\$ 550.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 2965.00	Total Collection

Summary of Income & Expenses

For the year 2012, as of December 31, 2012:

Income	\$ 98010.20
Expenses	<u>(\$111429.29)</u>
Net loss	(\$13419.09)

For the year 2013, as of January 31, 2013:

Income	\$ 9090.78
Expenses	<u>(\$ 9731.94)</u>
Net loss	(\$ 641.16)

PARISH EVENTS

Church School - Elementary & High School - meets today. Once again, I emphasize the value of Church School for helping our children know and keep their faith!

75th Anniversary follow-up meeting will be today in the hall. The Parish 75th Anniversary will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2013. As was noted in last week's bulletin, we need to have some idea of how many people might be coming. So . . .

*If you have not done so yet, please tell Nick Polanichka **TODAY** whether or not you & your family are thinking about attending the anniversary & how many of you there are.*

PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST – Next Sunday, March 3, after Liturgy. *Menu:* scrambled eggs & sausage, potato, fruit, Danish & rolls, coffee/tea & juice. \$7.00/adult. Everyone is welcome! Sponsored by both the Altar Society and the Men's Club.

Altar Society News -

Looking Ahead! The Society is planning a RUMMAGE SALE/ETHNIC DINNER in May. They are asking that you all start saving up your spring cleaning stuff that you wish to donate. Clothes must be clean and in slightly used condition and they are seeking larger sizes. Other household items in good condition are accepted.

Forgiveness Sunday is March 17. We are going to have a light brunch for our parishioners, followed by Forgiveness Vespers & Confessions to begin our celebration of the Great Fast. Everyone is encouraged to make this event your kick-off for the celebration of Great Lent.

COMING UP SOON!

Diocesan Priests' Retreat: Bishop Gregory is calling all diocesan clergy to pre-Lenten Retreats. The priests will gather at Camp Nazareth from Wed., Mar. 13 through Fri., Mar. 15.

Lenten Deanery Missions. Here is a summary of the Schedule for this Lent. Please note that our parish will be hosting the mission on *Sunday, March 31*. We will need to start planning soon.

St. John's Church, Perth Amboy, NJ – March 24 -

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers 4:00 p.m. Bishop Gregory presiding. All are encouraged to attend.

Scranton: Sunday, March 31 – Vespers @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Bob Preaching)

Dickson City: Sunday, April 7 - Moleben to the Cross @ 3:00 p.m. – (Fr. Larry Preaching)

Freeland: Sunday, April 14 – Paraklis @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Ron Preaching)

Nesquehoning: Sunday, April 21 – Vespers @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Deacon Ted Preaching)

Taylor: Sunday, April 28 – Confessions @ 2, Vespers @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Nik Preaching)

FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD

Eastern Region Diocesan Lenten Retreat:

- Saturday, April 20
- 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Holy Ghost Church, Starr & Bridge Sts., Phoenixville, PA
- Cost, (includes lunch): \$20/adult or teen. \$7/child 6-12 yrs old
- Registration Deadline: April 10
- Contact Tracey Bilanin @ tbilanin@yahoo.com or 484-624-4664.
- Sponsored by the National ACRY.

3rd Annual International Children's Classic Golf Tournament: St. Michael's in Binghamton will again be the host of the Third Annual International Children's Classic Golf tournament. The event will take place at the Endwell Greens Golf Course on Saturday, May 18th, with the shotgun tee-off at 12 noon. A dinner and awards presentations will follow.

All proceeds of the event benefit needy youngsters at the St. Nicholas Children's Home in Medzilaborce, the Holy Cross Orphanage in Uzghorod, and the Children's Wing of the Uzghorod Regional Hospital in Uzghorod, Ukraine.

There is a poster in the hall with all the details. Also, please feel free to contact Dr. Nicholas Seketa, chairperson of the event, if you have any questions. You can reach him by e-mail at NFSeketa@gmail.com or by phone at (607) 729-0261.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>St. Nicholas Orthodox Church</h1> <h2>March 2013</h2>					1 Mar. Pr. Pamphilius et al <i>No Fast</i>	2 Gr. Mar. Theodore Recruit 5 PM Vespers
3 PRODIGAL SON 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST	4	5	6 Monk Timothy 8 AM <i>Pirohi Prep</i>	7 Mar. Eugenia 8 AM <i>Pirohi Making</i>	8 Mar. Bp. Polycarp 9:30 - 4:30 <i>Pirohi Sale</i>	9 1 ST ALL SOULS SAT. St. John the Baptist 9 AM Divine Liturgy & Hramoty 5 PM Vespers
10 MEATFARE SUNDAY 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Church School - Elementary Men's Club - Election of Officers	11	12	13 Confessor Basil Priests' Retreat @ Camp Nazareth	14 Mar. Nun Eudoxia Priests' Retreat	15 Mar. Bp. Theodotus Priests' Retreat	16 Mar. Eutropius et al. 5 PM Vespers
17 CHEESE-FARE SUNDAY 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Parish Breakfast, Forgiveness Vespers & Confessions	18 CLEAN MONDAY	19 CLEAN TUESDAY. 42 martyrs	20 CLEAN WEDNESDAY Mar. Bps. Basil et al 8 AM <i>Pirohi Prep</i> 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy Confessions	21 CLEAN THURSDAY Conf. Theophylact 8 AM <i>Pirohi Making</i>	22 CLEAN FRIDAY. 40 Martyrs of Sebaste 9:30 - 4:30 <i>Pirohi Sale</i> 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy Confessions	23 MIRACLE OF ST. THEODORE RECRUIT Mar. Codratus et al. 9 AM Divine Liturgy 5 PM Vespers
24 ORTHODOXY SUNDAY 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Church School - Elem & Hi School 4 PM Perth Amboy - Orthodoxy Vespers with Bishop Gregory	25	26	27 Monk Benedict 8 AM <i>Pirohi Prep</i> 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy Confessions	28 Mar. Agapius et al. 8 AM <i>Pirohi Making</i>	29 Mar. Sabinus & Papas 9:30 - 4:30 <i>Last Pirohi Sale</i> 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy Confessions	30 ALL SOULS SAT. Bp. Patrick of Ireland 9 AM Divine Liturgy & Hramoty 5 PM Vespers
31 ST. GREGORY PALAMAS 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy Parish Board Mtg.	4/1	4/2	4/3 Conf. James. Bp. Serapion 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy Confessions	4/4 Mar. Pr. Basil	4/5 Mar. Monk Nicon & students 6:30 PM Presanctified Liturgy Confessions	4/6 ALL SOULS SAT. Pre-feast of Annunciation. St. Zachary 9 AM Divine Liturgy & Hramoty 5 PM Great Vespers & Litija

A HISTORY OF FASTING, Part Three of Four

By The Very Rev. Protopresbyter Lawrence Barriger

Although the fasting practices themselves may have varied with time and place and from person to person in the history of the Church the fact remains that fasting has always been seen as an important part of Orthodox Christian Life. However, the Tradition of the Church has always seen fasting as only a tool to combat the passions and to open the door to the renewal of the Holy Spirit: beyond this higher purpose it has no value.

One day St. Epiphanius sent someone to Abba Hilarion with this request, "Come and let us see each other before we depart the body." When he came they rejoiced in each other's company. During their meal they were brought a fowl; Epiphanius took it and gave it to Hilarion. Then the old man said to him, "Since I took the habit I have not eaten meat that has been killed." The bishop answered, "Since I took the habit I have not allowed anyone to go to sleep with a complaint against me and I have not gone to rest with a complaint against anyone." Hilarion replied, "Forgive me, your way of life is higher than mine."

Already in the time of the Prophet Isaiah fasting in and of itself was seen as useless and even a selfish act unless it extended outside of the body to our neighbor: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'" (Isaiah 58:6-9)

St. John Chrysostom, in a text that has become classic in the Orthodox Church, has stated the necessity for "fasting with the spirit" most eloquently and his words remain just as true today as when they were spoken over sixteen hundred years ago:

The value of fasting consists not only in avoiding certain foods, but in giving up of sinful practices. The person who limits his fast only to abstaining from meat is the one who especially lowers the value of it.

Do you fast? Prove it by doing good works. If you see someone in need, take pity on them. If you see a friend being honored, don't get jealous of him or her. For a true fast, you cannot fast only with your mouth. You must fast with your eyes, your ears, your feet, your hands, and all parts of your body.

You fast with your hands by keeping them pure from doing greedy things. You fast with your feet by not going to see forbidden shows or plays. You fast with your eyes by not letting them look upon impure pictures. Because if this is forbidden or unlawful, it mars your fast and threatens the safety of your soul. But if you look at things which are lawful and safe you increase your fast, for what you see with your eyes influences your conduct. It would be very stupid to eliminate or give up meat and other foods because of the fast but feed with your eyes upon other things which are forbidden.

You don't eat meat, you say? But you allow yourself to listen to lewd things. You must fast with your ears, too. Another way of fasting with your ears is not to listen to those who speak evil or untrue things about others. "Thou shalt not receive an idle report. " This is especially true of rumors, gossip, untruths which are spoken to harm another.

Besides fasting with your mouth by not eating certain foods, your mouth should also fast from foul language or telling lies about others. For what good is it if you don't eat meat or poultry, and yet you bite and devour your fellow man? (Homily III:8 On the Statutes)

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