

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 3.1

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

March 3, 2013

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

PARISH CALENDAR HI-LITES

Please see monthly calendar for all events

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

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Sheet

PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST

Wed., Mar. 6 6 AM start: Pirohi Making - 2 bags of potatos, start to finish.

Thu., Mar. 7 6 AM start: Pirohi Making - 2 bags of potatos, start to finish.

Fri., Mar. 8 Pirohi Sale

Sat., Mar. 9 1ST ALL SOULS SATURDAY. 1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Reading of the Lists of the Deceased (Hramoty)

5:00 PM Vespers

Sun., Mar. 10 Meat-fare Sunday. Archbishop Tarasius of Constantinople.

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Sheet

Church School - Elementary.

Men's Club Meeting - Election of Officers

Altar Society Meeting

FEASTS . . .

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS: This coming Saturday is the first of the five All Souls Saturdays, when we commemorate all the deceased and read the lists of the

deceased as we pray for them. On these days we especially pray for our deceased loved ones and the deceased of our parish. We are often enjoined by the Fathers of the Church to pray for the dead. If you do not remember them, who will?

If you would like to have your loved ones remembered, please fill out an envelope and include the list of your deceased. Please return these to Fr. Nik as soon as possible.

. . . & FASTS

The following is the official diocesan statement regarding Fasting during the Lenten season:

These are the minimum requirements to be observed during this Season. The regulations are in effect for all clergy and laity.

1) *Strict Fast (at least no meat, meat products or dairy products):*

- Monday, March 18 (Clean Monday),
- Good Friday, May 3
- Holy Saturday, May 4

2) *Abstinence from meat and meat-products:*

- All Wednesdays and Fridays during this entire Season.
- All of Holy Week, April 29 through May 4.

3) *Communion Fast:*

- Normal fasting from midnight is practiced before the morning liturgies of St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great.

- For the evening Liturgies (Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Vespertal Liturgy), a minimal three-hour fast from all food and drink must be observed before the reception of Holy Communion.

As our bishops have always reminded us, for those of stronger body and more willing spirit, the penitential practices of a sterner quality which the time-honored traditions and customs of our Holy Orthodox Church have handed down to us are whole-heartedly recommended.

So, you may ask, what *are* the “penitential practices of a sterner quality of time-honored traditions and customs? Answer - next week.

Meanwhile, the last part of the series on Fasting by Fr. Lawrence Barriger is printed today. See below.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Kathryn Derenick. William Joyce.

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary Chupron. 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 Tigie. Gary Wassel. Julia Worobey.

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

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

Altar Vigil Candles: Memory of William Joyce - Gary Joyce & family.

Eternal Light: Memory of William Joyce - Grandsons Gavin, Colin & Brady.

Panachida: William Joyce - 40 day memorial.

Kathryn Derenick fell asleep in the Lord this Monday at the age of 92. We celebrated her funeral on Friday. The 40-day memorial will be held on Sunday, April 14. Please pray for Kathryn’s family in this time of sorrow, and pray for the repose of her soul. Eternal Memory!

PARISH EVENTS

PRE-LENTEN BREAKFAST – Today! 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.

Fr. Nik will be away for a few days this week. If there is an emergency you can still reach me on my cell phone. Meanwhile,

Also please call Fr. Mark Leasure at 570-562-1170.

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

Men’s Club meets next Sunday - Election of Officers.

Altar Society meets next Sunday also.

Pirohi Making: Because of tremendous demand, we are going to have to make extra pirohi this week.

On Wednesday, we are scheduled to make 2 full bags, from start to finish. Prep will begin at the old usual time of 6 AM. We should be ready for pinching around 9 AM.

On Thursday, we will do it again.

We only have 3 more Pirohi Sales for the season, so let’s finish with a bang!

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.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

February 24, 2013

\$ 700.00	General Collection
\$ 26.00	1st Sunday
\$ 75.00	7 Day Light
\$1,680.00	Pirohi
\$ 42.00	Holy Days
\$ 360.00	Church Dues
\$ 22.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$2,912.00	Total Collection

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.

Our Mission is canceled. A number of parishioners have expressed concern about having our parish mission on Western Easter. Apparently many people have plans to spend the day with family who are not Orthodox, and so the viability of our being able to hold a mission that day has come into question. After having consulted with Fr. Mark, the Dean of our deanery, and our Parish Board, I have decided that it would be better to have no mission than to have one poorly prepared and poorly attended. *However*, I encourage everyone even more to participate in the other deanery missions this Lent.

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 – Canceled.

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

A RUMMAGE SALE/ETHNIC DINNER in May. It will be sponsored by the Altar Society. 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.

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.

A HISTORY OF FASTING, Part Four of Four

By The Very Rev. Protopresbyter Lawrence Barriger

SOME MODERN OBSERVATIONS

Every year since the time of Metropolitan Orestes of Blessed Memory, the Hierarchs of our Diocese have issued fasting regulations for Great Lent. Although recommending the "sterner practices of time-honored tradition" they also set forth a "minimal" standard as well for people to observe and still be keeping some sort of Lent. Our bishops have often been criticized for this but they have acted with wisdom. The Fathers tell us that a light rule that is observed is better than a heavy one that is soon broken and discarded. If the naked truth be told

many, if not most, Orthodox Christian faithful simply have ceased to observe any Lenten fasting, save for "Clean Monday" and Good Friday and regard the Lent as something that concerns the clergy only. Their pastors naively continue to issue rules on such subjects as days when oil may be used or shellfish may be eaten but the faithful simply ignore them. In the context of the pressure of modern American life, where the home is no longer the place where most meals are taken, our Hierarchs have offered these rules as a guide.

In modern America, a considerable amount of Lenten effort also goes to finding tasty "Lenten recipes" and even "Lenten cookbooks" which are of gourmet status or duplicate meat dishes using textured soy protein. This way we can say, "we are keeping the Fast!" To this the Fathers might say, "Do not let the cure for passions become a passion!"

The emphasis on "Lenten foods" should be simplicity and plainness and not extravagance. The more effort that goes into Lenten food creativity and preparation is the more its value is reduced. As the Apostle Paul tells us: "For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:7)

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

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!

Kondak of the Prodigal Son - Tone 3

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

When I foolishly separated myself from your Fatherly glory, * I squandered in wickedness the riches You had given me. * So now I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal Son, saying: * "I have sinned before You, O merciful Father! * Receive me, repentant, and make me as one of your hired servants."

Prokimen of the Resurrection - Tone 6

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

Reader: To You, O Lord, I call; My Rock, be not deaf to me.

Epistle for the Prodigal Son: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Alleluia of the Resurrection - Tone 6

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: He that dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty.

Reader: He will say to the Lord, "My Refuge and my Fortress, my God in Whom I trust."

Gospel of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32

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