

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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September 15, 2013
12th Sunday After Pentecost

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Sept. 15 12th Sunday after Pentecost. Martyr
Mammas. Patriarch John.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 3, pp. 87-89.

Parish Board meets

BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS

*No services here Friday or Saturday (see
below). These are the service times at ST. GEORGE
IN TAYLOR:*

Fri., Sept. 20 6:00 PM Great Vespers scheduled, but
I suggest you call ahead to make sure.

Sat., Sept. 21 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sun., Sept. 22 13th Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday
Before the Holy Cross. Grandparents
of the Lord Joachim and Anna.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets

*Church School meets - Elementary &
High School Classes*

FEASTS & FASTS

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS is on
Sat., September 21 (Sept. 8). This is a major Feast of
the Church. There will be no services celebrated here
for this day (see below).

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Irene Munchak

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary
Chupron. Susan Danchak. Michael Danchak. Jada

Eiden. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba.
Dawn, Warren & Colten Kieffer. Anna Mae Kuklis.
Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Emma Sacco. Amy
Shimo. Connie Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Jeff Thomas.
William Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel.
Julia Worobey. Eric Youshock.

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

In Assisted Living Homes: Julie Kovacs.

Altar Vigil Lights (2): Memory of Gene Danchak by
Sue Danchak.

Irene Munchak fell asleep in the Lord last week.
Eternal memory.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

September 8, 2013

\$ 1032.00	General Collection
\$ 47.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 87.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 7.00	Taper Candles
\$ 10.00	Altar Vigil Lights
\$ 90.00	Holy Days
\$ 10.00	Memory Donald Naglak
\$ 24.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 1307.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Fr. Nik will be attending the annual convention of the
Orthodox Theological Society of America from Thu.,
9/19 to Sat., 9/21 (You would think that since this is
an Orthodox Society, they would pay attention to the
Julian Calendar, and work around the Feastday, but

apparently not). If there is an emergency, you can contact me on my cell phone, and/or call Fr. Mark Leasure at 562-1170.

Parish 75th Anniversary, October 27:

- Divine Liturgy will be at 10:00 AM that day.
- Banquet tickets will be \$30 each for adults.
- There will be a menu choice of beef, chicken or fish for the meal.
- As you have seen in the letter, we have worked up special prices for parish children in order to encourage all of our parishioners to attend the banquet.
- *If you did not receive your letter yet*, please let the Parish Board know immediately and they will get you one.

1st Pirohi Sale Thanks and God Bless to all who came out and gave of time and talent to support this major fund raiser! *Next Sale: Friday, Spet. 27!*

Parish Board meets today.

Church School News. *As of now, I have no one who has indicated a willingness to teach our children.*

The First Church School meeting has been pushed back to Sunday, September 22. *All classes, including the Jr/Sr Hi School class*, will meet that day. The Fall Schedule will be available soon.

- We are in need of one, maybe 2 new teachers. If anyone is willing to help us with teaching grade school classes, please see me as soon as possible.
- *Grade School Classes* We are planning to hold classes every other Sunday, as we did last year. It seemed to work out fairly well, so we are trying it again.
- *Junior High/High School Classes* will be held once a month, again with Fr. Nik.
- **The Church School is one of the most important ministries of our parish.** Please consider giving us a hand with this valuable work!

Adult Enrichment Gatherings: Beginning *this Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 6 PM.* A number of people have been asking about the possibility of getting together on a regular basis to discuss our faith, theology, bible, etc. Fr. Nik has agreed to give this a try-out. We will meet *every other* Wednesday in the hall. Sessions will be about one hour, with perhaps some time after the formal session for anyone who

wants to discuss more informally.

As of now, no specific topic is scheduled. I will have some material prepared, but will also be looking for input regarding what people may be interested in. All adults are welcome.

Candlesticks and Lamps. You may have noticed that most of the Candlesticks on the altar and in front of the Iconostasis are looking a bit worse for wear. What you may not have noticed is that the 6 sticks on the Main Altar and the floorstands in front of the icon screen are breaking up – literally. We have decided to replace these candlesticks in 2 ways:

- We are resurrecting the old brass candlesticks for the 3 altars and the altar servers. They are well-made cast and worked brass – modern stuff just can't compete with the old tried and true. The Main Altar will have two 3-branched candlesticks, as laid out in the rubrics, and there will be 2 single candlesticks for each Side Altar and for the servers. The cost for refurbishing these will be
 - Each 3-branched candle is \$300.
 - Each single candle is \$100.
 - The four floor candle stands in front of the icon screen will be replaced with hanging lamps. We don't have a final price on these yet, but they will be, I hope, around \$100 each. I will get a final number as soon as possible.
 - BTW, we are keeping the best of the floor candle stands for use by the Icon Analoy and other liturgical uses.

We would like to offer those who originally donated items to have the first opportunity to donate the replacements:

- Those who donated the current Main Altar candlesticks would have first dibs on any of the Altar candlesticks.
- Those who donated the four main icons on the icon screen would have first dibs on the new hanging lamps.
- *However*, we have no available complete record of who donated what, so we only know a few of those people.
- *So, . . . Everyone* is welcome to make a donation, but if people identify themselves as an original donor, they move to the top of the pack.
- *MEANWHILE,*, I will repeat this announcement one

more time. After that, we will assume that the first donors have made their wishes known and will allow anyone to donate anything.

We want to have this project completed for the 75th anniversary celebration. If anyone wishes to make a donation, please speak with one of the Officers of the Parish Board.

FROM THE DIOCESE

Official notice from the Diocese, 9/12/2013:

JOHNSTOWN, PA -- The Diocesan Apostolate For Christian Education is pleased to announce that a weekly on-line Scripture Study Class on the Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John will begin on Saturday September 7, 2013. The class, led by Very Rev. Protopresbyter Kenneth Bachofsky, D. Min, Professor of Sacred Scripture at Christ the Saviour Seminary, will be broadcast live every Saturday from St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Warren, Ohio. The class will begin at 4:45 pm and will last approximately 60 minutes. The class will conclude for the year in May 2013. Class will be in recess during the Nativity and Theophany as well as the Holy and Bright Week periods.

The Gospel of St. John will be read and discussed within the context of the patristic mindset of the Church. Emphasis will be placed on both the Gospel's historical context and application to contemporary life.

This year's course is the second in an ongoing series of Orthodox Scripture Studies. In the Spring of 2013, a large cadre of students, both on location at St. Nicholas Church and on-line completed an in-depth study of the Gospel of St. Matthew.

There is no charge for participating, however, those who wish to participate must register on-line to enter the class room and access the broadcast link. Audio and Video recordings of each session will be archived for later study. By registering you will have access to the class bulletin board with the latest schedule and updates as well as other important resources.

Do you attend Vespers and cannot join the class live? You can view the lecture when convenient for you - lectures will be archived for later viewing. Visit www.orthodoxlearningcenter.org/ to sign up.

This latest on-line offering at the Orthodox On-line Learning Center is proudly sponsored by the

Diocesan Apostolate for Christian Education in cooperation with the Diocesan Apostolate for Information Technology and Communications.

OTHER STUFF

11TH ANNUAL UKRAINIAN FOOD FESTIVAL – St. Michaels Orthodox Church on 540 North Main Ave., Scranton. Sunday, Sept.22 from 11AM– PM. We will feature our homemade Ukrainian food such as: Halushky, Pyrohy, Halupchi, Kielbasi, Cabbage, and delicious deserts. All are welcome!

THE BIRTH OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, AND VERY GLORIOUS MOTHER OF JESUS CHRIST.

From The Protoevangelium of James

In the records of the twelve tribes of Israel was Joachim, a man rich exceedingly; and he brought his offerings double, saying: "There shall be of my superabundance to all the people, and there shall be the offering for my forgiveness to the Lord for a propitiation for me." For the great day of the Lord was at hand, and the sons of Israel were bringing their offerings. And there stood over against him Rubim, saying: "It is not meet for thee first to bring thine offerings, because thou hast not made seed in Israel." And Joachim was exceedingly grieved, and went away to the registers of the twelve tribes of the people, saying: "I shall see the registers of the twelve tribes of Israel, as to whether I alone have not made seed in Israel." And he searched, and found that all the righteous had raised up seed in Israel. And he called to mind the patriarch Abraham, that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac. And Joachim was exceedingly grieved, and did not come into the presence of his wife; but he retired to the desert, and there pitched his tent, and fasted forty days and forty nights, saying in himself: "I will not go down either for food or for drink until the Lord my God shall look upon me, and prayer shall be my food and drink.

And his wife Anna mourned in two mournings, and lamented in two lamentations, saying: "I shall bewail my widowhood; I shall bewail my childlessness." And the great day of the Lord was at hand; and Judith her maid-servant said: "How long dost thou humiliate thy soul? Behold, the great day of the Lord is at hand, and it is unlawful for thee to mourn. But take this head-band, which the woman

that made it gave to me; for it is not proper that I should wear it, because I am a maid-servant, and it has a royal appearance.” And Anna said: “Depart from me; for I have not done such things, and the Lord has brought me very low. I fear that some wicked person has given it to thee, and thou hast come to make me a sharer in thy sin.” And Judith said: “Why should I curse thee, seeing that the Lord hath shut thy womb, so as not to give thee fruit in Israel?” And Anna was grieved exceedingly, and put off her garments of mourning, and cleaned her head, and put on her wedding garments, and about the ninth hour went down to the garden to walk. And she saw a laurel, and sat under it, and prayed to the Lord, saying: “O God of our fathers, bless me and hear my prayer, as Thou didst bless the womb of Sarah, and didst give her a son Isaac.”

And gazing towards the heaven, she saw a sparrow’s nest in the laurel, and made a lamentation in herself, saying: “Alas! who begot me? and what womb produced me? because I have become a curse in the presence of the sons of Israel, and I have been reproached, and they have driven me in derision out of the temple of the Lord. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the fowls of the heaven, because even the fowls of the heaven are productive before Thee, O Lord. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the beasts of the earth, because even the beasts of the earth are productive before Thee, O Lord. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like these waters, because even these waters are productive before Thee, O Lord. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like this earth, because even the earth bringeth forth its fruits in season, and blesseth Thee, O Lord.”

And, behold, an angel of the Lord stood by, saying: “Anna, Anna, the Lord hath heard thy prayer, and thou shalt conceive, and shall bring forth; and thy seed shall be spoken of in all the world.” And Anna

said: “As the Lord my God liveth, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God; and it shall minister to Him in holy things all the days of its life.” And, behold, two angels came, saying to her: “Behold, Joachim thy husband is coming with his flocks.” For an angel of the Lord went down to him, saying: “Joachim, Joachim, the Lord God hath heard thy prayer. Go down hence; for, behold, thy wife Anna shall conceive.” And Joachim went down and called his shepherds, saying: “Bring me hither ten she-lambs without spot or blemish, and they shall be for the Lord my God; and bring me twelve tender calves, and they shall be for the priests and the elders; and a hundred goats for all the people.” And, behold, Joachim came with his flocks; and Anna stood by the gate, and saw Joachim coming, and she ran and hung upon his neck, saying: “Now I know that the Lord God hath blessed me exceedingly; for, behold the widow no longer a widow, and I the childless shall conceive.” And Joachim rested the first day in his house.

And on the following day he brought his offerings, saying in himself: “If the Lord God has been rendered gracious to me, the plate on the priest’s forehead will make it manifest to me.” And Joachim brought his offerings, and observed attentively the priest’s plate when he went up to the altar of the Lord, and he saw no sin in himself. And Joachim said: “Now I know that the Lord has been gracious unto me, and has remitted all my sins.” And he went down from the temple of the Lord justified, and departed to his own house. And her months were fulfilled, and in the ninth month Anna brought forth. And she said to the midwife: “What have I brought forth?” and she said: “A girl.” And said Anna: “My soul has been magnified this day.” And she laid her down. And the days having been fulfilled Anna was purified, and gave the breast to the child, and called her name Mary.

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