

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 10.2

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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October 13, 2013

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke. 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Oct. 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke. 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Martyred Bishop Gregory of Armenia.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 7, p. 99-101.

*Special, Brief Parish Board Meeting today*

*Men's Club meets.*

MON., OCT. 14 PROTECTION OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

Remembering Julie Soares.

Sun., Oct. 20 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke. 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Martyrs Sergius & Bacchus.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 8, p. 102-104.

*Church School meets - Elementary and Middle School.*

*Regular Monthly Parish Board Mtg.*

*Sobor Begins in Johnstown, PA.*

### FEASTS . . . . . & FASTS

PROTECTION OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS, MON., OCT. 14. Divine Liturgy as scheduled.

### PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*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 Light:* Memory of Ernest Bentler by wife Dorothy and daughters.

*Eternal Light:* Memory of Mary Mlakar by Marge Bednar.

*Panachida:* Memory of Mary Mlakar by Marge Bednar.

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

**October 6, 2013**

\$ 682.00	General Collection
\$ 189.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
\$ 74.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 9.00	Taper Candles
\$ 11.00	Holy Days
\$ 270.00	Church Dues
\$ 15.00	Heat Offering
\$ 500.00	Donations for Altar Candlesticks & Lamps.
<b>\$ 1764.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

## PARISH STUFF

**Parish Board: Special Meeting** There will be a quick meeting of the Parish Board after Liturgy, before the Men's Club meeting to discuss one item that has just come up.

**Parish 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 27 Update:** So far, we have a total of **43** people coming to the dinner. We ask that you return your reservations and money as soon as possible. Deadline is *Today!*

By The Way, I just realized that I kept re-printing the *wrong* time for Divine Liturgy that day. It will be at **10:30 AM**, not 10:00 AM. (I know, even the letter had it wrong.) The intent was to try to make sure that people wouldn't have to hang around too long waiting for the hors d'oeuvres to begin at the Green Ridge Club. The preprandial begins at Noon, with the dinner following at 1 PM.

**Men's Club** meets today, after the special Board meeting.

**Parish Board Regular Monthly Meeting** is next Sunday, October 20.

**Diocesan Sobor** begins next Sunday in Johnstown. Fr. Nik will be gone through Wednesday. In case of an emergency, please call me on my cell phone.

**Cookie Walk is just around the corner!** Again, we are asking that folks think about what they are baking even now. If we get a jump on that, freeze a little at a time, we'll have plenty for the Walk. More information about the Walk will be available shortly.

**Church School News.** This is the schedule for Church School Classes for the Fall Semester:

- Oct. 20: Elementary & Middle School classes.
- Nov. 10: All Classes, Elementary & Hi School.
- Nov. 24: All Classes, Elementary & Hi School.
- Dec. 8: Elementary & Middle School classes.
- Dec. 22: All Classes, Elementary & Hi School.

We are still looking for a kindergarten teacher.

**Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** Next AEG is this Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 6 PM. We will focus on the Bible.

**Candlesticks and Lamps Update.**

*As of now, we have only the following items left to donate:*

2 candlesticks used by the Altar Servers during liturgical services, @ \$100 each.

Donors can remit their funds, at their earliest convenience, to Nick Polanichka.

**Donor Intentions:** If the donors wish to make their donation for an intention (in memory of someone, etc.), please email (preferred), or call the rectory as soon as you can, so that they can be published.

Thanks and God bless to all who give generously to God's Church.

**Official Announcement: Parish Annual Meeting.** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 3, after Divine Liturgy.

**St. Nicholas Dinner Coming Up!** The annual St. Nicholas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 15, after the Divine Liturgy. More info soon.

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**Ekumen Chorale Concert for Syrian Refugee Relief, Sunday, 7PM.** The Ekumen Chorale of Northeastern Pennsylvania, will present a concert of liturgical music at St. Michael's Church, 296 Clinton Street, on Sunday, October 13 at 7 PM. Entitled "A Concert of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East," it will benefit the plight of refugees in the Syrian civil war.

A free-will offering will be directed to the outreach there of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). It is one of the largest of all of the humanitarian networks offering life-assistance aid within Syria and the borderlands where more than 6 million people are refugees.

This will be the second visit of the Ekumen Chorale to St. Michael's. The group performed Rachmaninov's Vesper in 1993 when the parish hosted a fund-raiser for victims of the bombing of the Oklahoma Federal Building.

Your presence, prayers and offerings will ease the plight of those who have lost almost everything in the civil war there these past two years.

A Flyer and a program are posted on the hall bulletin board.

**St. Vladimir Parish Annual Flea Market:** The Annual Flea Market sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church will be held in the Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton on Saturday, October 26, 2013 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Doors will not open before 9:00am. This event benefits the Parish Children's Religious Education Program. Ukrainian and American foods

will be available for purchase. To reserve a table or for additional information contact Daria at 570 963-1580.

**St. Thomas More Parish, Scranton, to Hold Rummage Sale.** On Saturday, October 19, St. Thomas More Catholic Parish, 1625 North Main Avenue, Scranton, will hold a Rummage Sale in the Parish Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Items for sale will include baked goods, books, children's items, clothing, decor, electronics, housewares, kitchen items, music, toys, video, and more. Individuals wishing to donate items for the sale may do so at any time prior to the event (please call 570-343-0634 to make arrangements). A flyer about the event is available at <http://www.stmscranton.org/flyer2.pdf>.

Contact: Paul Campbell, Administrator: 570-343-0634, [contact@stmscranton.org](mailto:contact@stmscranton.org).

**Annual Fall Youth Encounter at Camp Nazareth:** from Nov 8-10, 2013. While it is sponsored by the JR ACRY it is open to all Diocesan Youth ages 8-18. It is a perfect opportunity for our youth to reconnect after Camp. Also it is an opportunity for those who have never taken part in the Diocesan camping program to get a taste of what Camp is like. Flyer is posted in the hall. Also, you can get information on the diocesan website: <http://www.acrod.org/news/releases/2013-youth-encounter>.

## PROTECTION OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS

From *The Menologion*

The Protection (Pokrov) of the Most Holy Mother of God: "The Virgin today stands forth within the Church, and with the choirs of the Saints invisibly for us prays to God: angels with hierarchs make reverence, and apostles with prophets sing forth: for us the Birthgiver of God prays to the Pre-eternal God" – this miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid- 10<sup>th</sup> Century at Constantinople, in the Blakhernae church where there was preserved the Robe of the Mother of God, Her Head-Veil (mathoria) and part of the Belt-Sash, transferred from Palestine in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century.

On Sunday, 1 October, during the time of the all-night vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (Comm. 2 October) at the fourth hour of the night lifted up his eyes towards the heavens, and beheld coming through the air our Most Holy Lady Mother of God resplendent with an Heavenly light and

surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. The holy Baptist of the Lord John and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knee the Most Holy Virgin began with tears to pray for Christians and for a long time was at prayer. Then, coming near the Throne of God, She continued Her prayer. Having completed it, She then took from Her head the veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Mother of God was resplendent with Heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in Her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun".

Saint Andrew gazed with trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple Blessed Epiphanius standing alongside him: "Do you see, brother, the Queen and Lady, praying for all the world?"

Epiphanius answered: "I do see, holy father, and I am in awe". The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people, calling on His Most Holy Name and asking fervently for His help:

"O Heavenly King," said in prayer the Immaculate Queen standing spiritually amidst the Angels, "accept every person, that prays to You and calls on My Name for help. Let them not go empty away unheard from before My Face."

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius, allowed to behold the Mother of God at prayer, for a long time gazed at the protecting veil spread over the people and the lightning like flashes in glory to the Lord; as long as the Most Holy Mother of God was there, so likewise was the protecting veil visible; but with Her departure it likewise became invisible, and though having taken it with Her, She left behind the grace of having been there.

At the Blakhernae church was preserved the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God. In the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Aleksandr saw within the church an icon of the Most Holy Mother of God praying for the world, and written (painted), which included a depiction of Saint Andrew in contemplation of Her. But the Greek Church does not know this feast.

[*Translator's note:* The Greek Church does not historically celebrate this feast. Our Russian source is here reticent concerning the historical circumstances occasioning the necessary protective intercession of

the Mother of God. It reflects a great irony, that for the Russians rather than for the Greeks this should be an important feast, since it celebrates the Divine destruction by a storm of a large pagan-Russian fleet under Askold and Dir which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867. The exact date is disputed; the Russian historian Vasiliev says that it occurred on 18 June 860. The Russian Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor notes this miraculous deliverance following the all-night vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blakhernae church, but without mention of Saints Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the feast of Pokrov, seem to postdate Saint Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under the 2 October entry for Saint Andrew -- that of his demise in the year 936. Either this year of death might not be quite reliable, or that he survived into quite extreme old age after the vision of his youth, or that his vision involved some historically later pagan-Russian raid which met with the same fate. The below suggestion likewise that the Saint Andrew of the vision was a Slav (or a Skyth per other sources, such as S. V. Bulgakov) is a nice touch, but not necessarily chauvinism: the extent of historical South Slavic penetration and re-population into Greece is the stuff of scholarly disputes].

In the Prologue, a Russian book of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, is contained a description about the establishing of the special Feastday in honour of this event: "For lo, when we heard, we realised, how wondrous and merciful was the vision and moreover an expectation and intercession on our behalf, without celebration. . .and it transpired, that your holy Pokrov-Protection should not remain without

festal-celebration, O Ever-Blessed One!".

So, in the festal celebration of the Divine-services to the Pokrov-Protection of the Mother of God, the Slavic Church intones: "With the choirs of the Angels, O Sovereign Lady, with the venerable and glorious prophets, with the First-Ranked Apostles and with the Priest-Martyrs and Sainted-hierarchs pray for us sinners, glorifying the feast of your Protection in the Russian Land". And moreover, it would seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision, was a Slav, taken captive and at Constantinople given over into slavery to the local inhabitant named Theognost.

Churches in honour of the Pokrov-Protection of the Mother of God appeared in Russia and other Slavic countries in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. Widely known for its architectural merit is the temple of the Pokrov at Nerla, which was built in the year 1165 by holy Prince Andrei Bogoliubsky. Through the efforts of this holy prince was also established in the Russian Church the feast itself, the Pokrov-Protection of the Mother of God, in about the year 1164. At Novgorod in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century there existed a monastery of the Pokrov of the Most Holy Mother of God (the so-called Zverinsk monastery); at Moscow also under tsar Ivan the Terrible was built the cathedral of the Pokrov of the Mother of God at the church of the Holy Trinity (known as the church of Saint Basil the Great).

On the feast of the Pokrov-Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God we implore the defense and assist of the Queen of Heaven: "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we perish not by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes; for on You we hope, and venerating the feast of your Pokrov, You do we magnify".

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
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