

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 10.3

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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October 20, 2013

2nd Sunday of Luke. 16th Sunday after Pentecost.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Oct. 20 3rd Sunday of Luke. 17th 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.

Pirohi making & Sale this week: See Monthly Calendar for days and times.

SUN., OCT. 27 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. NICHOLAS.
4TH SUNDAY OF LUKE. 18TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST. NUN PARASKEVIA
OF TRVNO.

10:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 1, p. 81–83.

Noon Hors d'oeuvres at Green Ridge Club

1 PM Celebratory Dinner

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. 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): Health of Joe Kacaba by wife Lorraine.

Eternal Light: Memory of Kathryn & Michael Derenick by Jane Naughton.

Panachida: Memory of Maria Dutko by Julie Worobey.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

October 13, 2013

\$ 655.00	General Collection
\$ 21.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 97.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 10.00	Vigil Lights
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 4.00	Tapers
\$ 39.00	Holy Days
\$ 30.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 500.00	Donations Candlesticks & Lamps.
\$ 100.00	Parking
\$ 1192.00	Pirohi
\$ 2655.00	Total Collection

DDD Annual Giving Program. The Board had a brief conversation about the DDD last Sunday at their meeting. They noted that there have been only a few returns on the annual 3D campaign from our parish and parishioners this year, many less than the usual.

It seems that we had a few slip-ups somewhere and the whole 3D campaign just slipped through the cracks

here at St. Nicholas. I know that I have not been publicizing it, on the one hand, but there has been little to publicize on the other. The direct mailings from the diocese to each past contributor were received sometime in the summer, and may have landed at the bottom of the pile on your to-do list. Also, it seems that some appeal letters were never received by folks (don't know why that is). There may be other reasons or concerns, so. . . .

This is a reminder and a request that folks support the annual DDD giving program with a \$100 contribution. The 3D fundraiser supports our Camp Nazareth (one of the best in the business), the seminary, etc.

Every donor of \$100 or more is invited to a celebratory dinner at St. George's in Taylor on Sunday, Nov. 3. Hors D'oeuvres begin at 1:30 PM, Dinner begins at 2:30 PM (Note the times on the diocesan website are wrong). Entré choices are New York strip steak; stuffed chicken breast, salmon. If you wish to bring a guest, meal price is \$30.

The deadline for giving is October 23, if you wish to go to the dinner. To meet the deadline you can

- Go online to www.acrod.org click on DDD info, and make your contribution on-line by secure payment.
- Mail your contribution directly to the diocese: Please make the check out to ACROD, and mark it clearly as a DDD donation. Mail your contribution to ACROD, 312 Garfield St. Johnstown, PA 15906.

Also, please let Nick Polanichka that you are making the contribution so that we can recognize you in the bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity.

Bill & Beverly Thomas \$100. Stephanie Bonk \$100. Ed Bonk \$100. Carol Pugh \$100. M/M Stephen Roberts \$100. Frank Pucher \$100. St. Nicholas Parish \$100. Deadline is Oct. 23.

PARISH STUFF

Parish 75th Anniversary, next Sunday, October 27: If you have not yet committed to the dinner, but would still like to go, talk to Nick Polanichka today. It may still be possible to get a ticket.

Reminder: Divine Liturgy will be at 10:30 AM.

Parish Board Regular Monthly Meeting is today.

Taper Candles - We have run out of the beeswax tapers and will not have any this week. We have been having some problems with our supplier which have been worked out (we hope). We had hoped to have them delivered before today, but UPS sent a notice that they will not arrive until at least tomorrow.

We apologize for this inconvenience. Hopefully we will have them available for next Sunday.

Diocesan Sobor begins today in Johnstown. Fr. Nik & Bill Thomas will be gone through Wednesday. Please pray for safe travel and a worth-while experience at this first Sobor with the new bishop. In case of an emergency, please call Fr. Nik on his cell phone.

Cookie Walk in December! Keep Baking!

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

- 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. 30, at 6 PM. We will focus on the Liturgy.

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

St. Vladimir Parish Annual Flea Market Postponed

The Annual Flea Market sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Scranton which was to be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 is postponed until Spring due to illness.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church is celebrating its 125th Anniversary (1888-2013) on Saturday, October 26, 2013, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 133 River Street, Olyphant, in the School Gym. This is our First "Ukrainian Cultural Day" Event to celebrate our Ukrainian Heritage. There will be tours given of the Church, explaining the Iconostas and the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church by Father Nestor Iwasiw, Mr. Eugene Turko, and other parishioners.

We will have available the Ledgers of the Church from 1888 depicting Marriages, Deaths and Baptism, along with the Baseball Trophies of SS. Cyril's Baseball team who won 7 consecutive titles. Also featured will be Tammy Budnovitch demonstrating the Ukrainian Pysanky Eggs. We will have a "Baba Basket" by Sharon of Rascal Fair Farm, Ukrainian Bread, Photography of Ukrainian Flowers By Eugene Maslar, "Christmas in Ukraine" Book by Worldbook, "Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks" 2 volume Cookbook from the Sisterhood of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, The Choir of St. Cyril's, DVD's of our Easter and Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols. "Original Photography by Lauren Telep" of the Church, Hand painted Ukrainian Folk Art, including Pysanky egg and wooden egg ornament's, painting and prints of Ukrainian Landscapes, "Matryoshka" Nesting Dolls, Ukrainian embroidery items, Jewelry depicting the 3-Bar Cross, Chocolate Candy decorated with the Ukrainian Colors of blue and yellow, with and many more Ukrainian Ethnic merchandise. "Take out" UNCOOKED ethnic food sold by the package will be available. Cake and Coffee will be served. Free Admission and Free Parking.

Contact Lauren Telep for more information: 570-383-0319.

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>.

CANDLES, CANDLES EVERYWHERE

(Excerpts from Sacred Symbols That Speak by Anthony Coniaris)

Every time we light a candle, then, the flame and the light should remind us of God Who in the history of salvation has appeared time and again as fire and light. Let us look briefly at the meaning of candles as used in our worship. The Sanctuary Lamp, otherwise known as the Ever-Burning Light (Akoimitos) that burns constantly, usually suspended from the ceiling over the Tabernacle on the Holy Table, reminds us of God's constant presence in our midst. He never leaves us or forsakes us. Other candles are extinguished after services but never the Ever-Burning Light. A symbol of God's unflinching presence in our midst, the flame flickers endlessly.

Many Orthodox Christians light a candle upon entering church. This simple act is deeply meaningful. It means that in the liturgy when the word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit will come to remove the veil (2 Cor. 3:15 and 4:6) of blindness from our eyes, the veil of lack of understanding and make the light of Christ shine in our hearts. Lighting a candle on entering church expresses our belief that Jesus is the Light of the World and that as His disciple, I am called daily to reflect His light in my life. It reminds us that when we were baptized we received Jesus Who is the Light of the World. Like Him, instead of cursing the darkness, we are to be lighting candles of hope and love in the lives of people. As we light that candle on entering the church we can pray the beautiful words of the Psalmist, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

We light the Paschal Candle at the midnight Easter liturgy to remind us that Christ has gone on before us

into the darkness of death and has overcome that darkness, transforming it into unwaning light. "Come, receive light from the unwaning light and glorify Christ Who is risen from the dead." The Paschal Candle proclaims our faith that the Resurrected Christ "has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (col. 1:13-14).

When the priest comes out in procession with the Gospel Book during the liturgy, he is preceded by acolytes carrying candles to show that the word of God, to use words of the Psalmist, is "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." The candles that precede the procession with the Gospel Book speak loud and clear. They tell us that the word of God is light for the darkness in which we walk. Its purpose is to prevent us from stumbling; to show us the way; to lead us home to God.

In some Orthodox churches in the Middle East, I have seen an object resembling an ostrich egg suspended immediately above the flickering flame of hanging votive lights. The symbolism of the ostrich egg has to do with the heat produced by the flame of the votive candle. Just as an ostrich must sit on the egg for a long time in order to slowly hatch it with the heat of its body, so the Christian must remain close to the flame of Christ. He must stay close to the church and must nurture his faith through daily prayer and regular communion with Christ through the Eucharist. Only then will faith grow, develop, mature and come to life. The ostrich egg represents the embryonic state of faith which can spring to life through patient and faithful asceticism (man's struggle to keep the commandments of Christ), producing a life full of the fruits of the Spirit, a life that will glorify the Trinity.

St. Symeon of Thessalonika, the New Theologian, says that the reason virginal lights are placed before the

icons of the saints is to show that without the Light, Who is Christ, the saints are nothing. It is only as the light of Christ shines upon them that they become alive and resplendent.

THE INNER LIGHT IN BYZANTINE ICONS

The concept of the inner light has been incorporated into Byzantine iconography. In icons the light of God resides in the inner person and emerges from within. There are no shadows since shadows are seen only when there is outer light. The Source of this inner light, of course, is the Holy Spirit and it is usually expressed through a glow on the face of the one depicted on the icon, which is usually contemplative as one who is looking within. This is in contrast to religious paintings of the West where the light is shown as coming from an outside source with shadows and an oversized halo.

The candles we light in church, then, should be but an outer expression of the light planted in us by Jesus at baptism. In the words of St. Paul, "For it is the God Who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ'" (11Cor. 4:6).

A WORD OF CAUTION

A note of caution here. There are many cults that emphasize the Inner Light. They have good things to say about the inner light and the guidance they receive from it. However, by "inner light" they do not mean what we mean: the presence of the Trinity within us. Inner light to them means their own light that emerges from their own thinking. It has nothing to do with God. It is, in fact, a Godless humanism. As G.K. Chesterton so well said, "That Jones shall worship the god within him turns out ultimately to mean that Jones shall worship Jones."