

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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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

November 10, 2013
6th Sunday of Luke. 20th of Pentecost.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 10 6th Sunday of Luke. 20th of Pentecost.
Great-martyr Paraskevia

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

Men's Club & Altar Society meet

Church School - Elementary & High School.

Sun., Nov. 17 7th Sunday of Luke. 21st Sunday after
Pentecost. Monk Joannicus the Great.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 4, p. 90-92.

Annual Parish Meeting - Rescheduled.

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. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel. Michael Wassel. Julia Worobey.

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 Marion Pucher by Pucher and Roberts families.

Eternal Light: Memory of Mary Snell by family.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

November 3, 2013

\$ 484.00	General Collection
\$ 64.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 270.00	Church Dues
\$ 64.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 5.50	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 13.00	Tapers
\$ 15.00	Pirohi
\$ 200.00	Candlesticks Donation
\$ 22.50	Heat Offering
\$ 1145.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

2014 Church Calendars: Are now available in the Church Hall. Please pick up yours today.

Annual Parish Meeting Rescheduled: The annual meeting, scheduled for last week, Nov. 3, had to be rescheduled because there were not enough people for a quorum. The parish bylaws require a minimum of 25 voting members for a quorum and there were only 23 present. *Therefore*, The Annual Parish Meeting has

been rescheduled for **Sunday, Nov. 17**, after the Divine Liturgy. All voting members of the parish are asked to attend this meeting.

Photos Being Returned: A number of people lent photos of the parish for the 75th Anniversary CD. Please pick up your photos at the Board office in the hall. Thanks for your help with that project!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE:

Thanksgiving Non-Perishable Food Collection Project Sun., Nov. 10 through Sun., Nov. 24!

The Problem:

As you may know, funding to local Food Pantries has been cut a great deal in recent months, and even after existing all efforts, supplies are diminishing. These pantries distribute non-perishable food products to our neighbors who find it difficult financially to make ends meet. Many of these people proudly worked hard all their lives to provide for their families and now, having lost their jobs in this struggling economy must choose between food, medicine or fuel: go hungry, be sick or freeze. For the sake of their families, they must now ask for assistance from the weekly food distribution centers. Others are single parents (mothers or fathers) whose paychecks do not cover all the needs of their children; still others are families struggling to make it on one income.

Our Responsibility:

The Lord says, "From those who have much, much will be expected." We who have been blessed by God to be able to take care of ourselves and our families are *obligated* to also take care of the people around us in need. I will point out only a couple of examples:

- Last week we heard the parable of the Rich Man, who was condemned for *not* doing anything for Lazarus. He did not purposely hurt Lazarus, merely ignored him, and so was condemned. I don't want to bore you with the multiple examples from Scripture, so here is a different one:
- In the Orthodox Marriage ceremony, we pray that the happy couple be blessed with material prosperity *for a reason*: "Grant them the fruit of the earth, that having *sufficient* provisions, they may endeavor in every work that is good and

acceptable to You." *And, more specifically*, "provide them *abundantly* with earthly goods, **so that they may in turn share their abundance with the needy.**" From the very beginning of our adult life in the Church, we are expected to take care of those more in need than us.

So, which of us is the "Rich Man" who is required to provide for the needy? There is a simple test for this: Ask yourself, "Am I now going to a food pantry or a soup kitchen in order to provide meals for myself and my family?" If the answer is, "No," then you are a Rich Man in comparison to those who have to ask for food.

Our Response:

Our parish response to this need will be two-fold:

1. A Collection of non-perishable food items.
 - a. The food will go to one of the area food pantries run by *BreadBasket of NEPA*, which oversees a large number of the regular food pantries around here (this is the organization that we had a collection for last year about this time, if you remember).
 - b. *The drive will be only from now until Sunday, Nov. 24*, so that we can get the items to the food pantry before Thanksgiving.
 - c. Non-perishable food items include canned soups, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, pastas, cereal, etc.
 - d. A container is in the church hall to collect these food items.
2. A Second Collection will be taken in church on *Sun., Nov. 24*. The money donated will be given to support a local organization which is providing food for people in the area who are in need.

Finally, full disclosure: this drive is only the first of a series of food drives to help those in need. People do not eat only once a year. We will be holding a similar drive before American Christmas. This will give us time to more carefully plan for and schedule regular assistance to those in the area who are in special need. We hope to maintain this spirit of charity and concern for our neighbors for as long as economic circumstances in the Wyoming Valley warrant it. Please pray for guidance for yourself and for all of us in the matter. And, while you are praying, put some

food in a big bag to bring to Church on Sunday.

And now, really finally: I am very pleased to be able to say that this was not my idea. No one can use the excuse that Father is just trying to make us do churchy stuff cuz he has to. This idea was conceived of and promoted by members of this parish, some on the Board and some not on the Board – in other words, from you’ns all. I find that encouraging.

Church School Classes 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, Nov. 13, at 6 PM. Back to Scripture.

St. Nicholas Dinner Coming Up! The annual St. Nicholas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 15, after the Divine Liturgy. Discussion at the Parish Meeting next Sunday.

Just a heads’ up: Fr Nik will be away the week of Thanksgiving, from Tuesday, Nov. 26 through Sat., Nov. 30, spending a few stolen hours with family. In an emergency, you can call Fr. Mark Leasure (570-562-1170). You can also call Fr. Nik on his cell, just to keep him up to date.

Cookie Walk in December! Keep Baking!

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner Church of the Good Shepherd, 1780 N. Washington Ave., Scranton. 570-347-1760. Saturday, Nov. 16. Dining in: 4 PM to 7 PM. Take out (adult-size meals only): 4 PM. Tickets: Adults \$10, Chil 4-12 \$5 each, 3 yrs and under free. See Flyer on Bulletin Board

Harvest Dinner Sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Sunday, November 17, 2013 - 12:30pm. St. Vladimir Parish Center - 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton PA. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, hot vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, coffee, tea and beverages. Drawing for \$1,000 worth of cash prizes and handmade quilt. Adults \$13.00; Students 6 to 12 years \$8.00; no charge for children age 5 and under. Advance reservations close Sunday, November 10 - no tickets sold at the door. Take-outs available - must pick up promptly between 11:30am and 12:00 noon. For reservations contact Kathleen Izak at 570 346-2414.

Pancake Breakfast - Food and fellowship are offered at the 1st Quarterly Pancake Breakfast, 11:30 to 2 pm, on Sunday, November 17, in the church hall of St. Joseph's Church, now St. Thomas More Parish, North Main Ave. & Theodore St., in Scranton. \$5 per person, \$25 maximum per family. Parking is available.

High School Reunion: The 1973 graduating class of Dunmore Central Catholic High School (formerly Bishop O'Hara H.S. now called Holy Cross High School) Dunmore, PA will be gathering for their 40th Reunion. It will be held on Friday, November 29, 2013 (the day after Thanksgiving) at *Billy B's Restaurant* at 138 Smith Street, Dunmore, Pa. It will be an informal gathering starting at 7:00 p.m, with a cash bar. A Dinner menu will be available starting at 5:00 p.m. with reservations at (570-341-7879). If you know the whereabouts of classmates from the class of 1973, please forward the information to them or contact Collen Mangan (570-346-7476) DUNMORE or Lauren Telep (570-383-0319) Mid-Valley area. We are asking for mementos of '73 to be brought and shared with fellow classmates. Spouses are invited to attend this reunion.

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS

November 8/21

From OCA.org

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless

Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Mt. 25:31).

More about angels next week.

CHRISTMAS FAST

From OCA.org

[Note The Christmas Fast Begins Nov. 15 (Nov. 28 Civil Calendar), and goes until Christmas Eve.]

Question:

I was wondering why we fast before Nativity. The Lenten fast seems more obvious. Also, from what foods do we normally fast from during the Nativity fast?

Answer:

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat,

when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us—and for many people, food is a controlling factor.

[We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us.

Just as we would refrain from eating a lot before going to an expensive restaurant for dinner—if we "ruin our appetite" we will enjoy the restaurant less—so too we fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself.

During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently.

If we must modify the extent to which we fast within this framework, it is of course possible, but in every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a "must."

In Matthew Christ says, "WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites," not "IF you fast" or "IF YOU CHOOSE to fast."

Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society—a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products—fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace—and pay large sums of money for—his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible.