

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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November 17, 2013

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. 21<sup>st</sup> of Pentecost.

### PARISH CALENDAR

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

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

*Annual Parish Meeting - Rescheduled.*

*Pirohi Sale this week: See monthly Calendar.*

THU., NOV. 21 SYNAXIS OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & ALL THE BODILESS POWERS

**8:00 AM Divine Liturgy**

*Pirohi making begins after Liturgy.*

Sat., Nov. 23 Great-martyr Orestes.

12 Noon Mysteries of Initiation: Noah Scott Kieffer.

Sun., Nov. 24 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. 22<sup>nd</sup> of Pentecost. Confessor Theodore the Studite.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 5, p. 93–95.

*Church School - Elementary & High School.*

*Parish Board Meets*

### FEASTS AND FASTS

**St. Michael the Archangel** is this Thursday, Nov. 21. Divine Liturgy will be at 8:00 AM.

**Filipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent)** begins on Thursday, Nov. 28 civil calendar (Nov. 15 Julian) and goes until Christmas Eve, January 6 civil (Dec. 24 Julian). It is called Philip's Fast because it begins the day after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle on Nov.

14/27. The **Traditional Fast** requires: (a) Strict Fast (no meat, dairy, and in some places no wine or oil) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; (b) no meat on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The MINIMUM Diocesan Rule is no meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

This Year, Filipovka begins on Thanksgiving Day. In the past, Metropolitan Nicholas 'unofficially' permitted dispensation from the Fast on Thanksgiving Day and the next day, Friday. Until I receive new direction from Bishop Gregory, I am assuming that this remains the policy of the diocese.

Christmas Eve is ordinarily a DAY OF STRICT FAST in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord. *However*, this year, because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is not a Strict Fast Day. We only fast from meat on Christmas Eve. However, we must keep STRICT FAST on the previous Friday, Jan. 4 civil calendar (Dec. 22 Julian)

No dispensation has been granted from fasting on Dec. 24, 25, or Jan. 1 (civil calendar).

### 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 Lights (2):* Memory of Very Rev. Protopresbyter John Dolhy & Pani Arlene.

*Eternal Light:* Memory of Very Rev. Protopresbyter John Dolhy & Pani Arlene.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

November 10, 2013

\$ 739.00	General Collection
\$ 15.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 89.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 2.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 13.00	Tapers
\$ 1197.00	Pirohi
\$ 20.00	Heat Offering
<b>\$ 2165.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

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

Up for election are the Officers of the Board and three trustees.

**Church School** meets next Sunday, Nov. 24. All classes will meet.

**Parish Board** will have its regular monthly meeting next Sunday, Nov. 24.

**Photos Being Returned:** A number of people lent photos of the parish for the 75<sup>th</sup> 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!**

*{I am reprinting the Reader's Digest version of last week's article, just in case you didn't get a chance to read it.}*

#### *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, even if they are working – low wage jobs, single income households and other problems make it difficult for folks to get by.

#### *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:

- In Scripture there are numerous events and statements by Our Lord which emphasize our obligation to take care of those in need (See the Last Judgment scene in Matt 25.)
- In the Orthodox Marriage ceremony, we pray that the happy couple be blessed with material prosperity *for a reason*: "...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 be 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 table 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.

#### **Church School Classes** the Fall Semester:

- 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:** Because of Thanksgiving, the next AEG will be Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 6 PM. Back to Liturgy. All are welcome to attend. Each session is independent, so don't feel that you missed too much to start coming now.

**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 today.

**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.

#### ***Christmas Cookie Walk!***

- Friday December 20<sup>st</sup>
- *9:30 A.M. until Sold Out*
- We are asking for donations of assorted cookies, breads, cakes, cupcakes, sugar free items...whatever your specialty is!
- **FANCY CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND GOODIES ARE WHAT SELL THE BEST!** Think Christmas Party style cookies!
- It will help a lot if we know what you are bringing. Please let Carol Pugh know, or sign up in the hall.
- ***Parish Has Freezer Space*** Bring your stuff on Sundays, or call to get the hall opened for you.
- Please bring your bring baked goods by Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF**

**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 (cont.)*

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones.

- The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:12) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.
- The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.
- The THRONES (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

- DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly

authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

- POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient, and give them spiritual strength and fortitude.
- AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels:

- PRINIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.
- ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.
- ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.