

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 2 No. 11.4

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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November 24, 2013

8th Sunday of Luke. 22nd of Pentecost.

PARISH CALENDAR

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

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

Church School - Elementary & High School.

Parish Board Meets

Sun., Dec. 1 9th Sunday of Luke. 22st Sunday after
Pentecost. Martyrs Plato & Roman.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Tone 6, p. 96–98.

Altar Society meets.

FEASTS AND FASTS

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 a DAY OF STRICT FAST in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord.

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

All are reminded that fasting from food goes hand-in-hand with fasting from sin. This is why the traditional directive to receive the Holy Mystery of Confession is given during the Christmas Fast period. During the Christmas Fast, Confessions are scheduled for Sunday morning 8:45 – 9:15.

Also, almsgiving (giving to the poor and needy) is the flip side of the coin of fasting. Our hands are supposed to move away from stuffing our own faces in order to give out to others who are in need. The parish will be providing opportunities for parishioners to do so this Christmas Fast.

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 Tigie. 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.

Welcome and God Bless! To **Noah Scott Kieffer**, who was welcomed into the Church through the Mysteries of Initiation. May God bless Noah, his godparents

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

November 17, 2013

\$ 514.00	General Collection
\$ 11.00	Holy Days
\$ 63.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 74.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 13.00	Tapers
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 100.00	Donation
\$ 782.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

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

Parish Board Election Results: At the Annual Meeting last Sunday, all of the officers of the board were up for election, as well as 4 trustees' seats. After elections, the parish board is as follows (a * by a name means they were elected or re-elected at the meeting):

President: none*

Vice-President: Walter Orzolek*

Financial Secretary: Mary Ann Polanichka*

Treasurer: Nicholas Polanichka*

Recording Secretary: John Shimo *

Trustees:

John Brizinski

Mary Brizinski*

Mildred Orzolek*

Frank Pucher

Jane Togher*

William Wassel*

Mary Brizinski is filling a vacated seat, so she will be sworn in at Divine Liturgy today. The rest of the

newly elected board members will be sworn in the first Sunday of January, when their terms begin.

Church School Classes the Fall Semester:

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

We are still looking for a kindergarten teacher.

Parish Board meets today.

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!

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.

Just a heads' up: Fr Nik will be away this 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 20st
- 9:30 A.M. until Sold Out, or 4:30 PM, whichever comes first.
- 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 19th.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE:

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

Special Note!

Today is the last day for collecting non-perishable food items.

Today is the second collection in Church for helping to feed those in our area who are hungry.

In case you haven't read it yet:

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.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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.

Crisis in Syria: A Presentation by the IOCC at the University of Scranton Monday, Dec. 2: Roy Azar is a Syria Relief Coordinator for International Orthodox Christian Charities. He will be speaking here at the University on Monday, Dec. 2 (7:30pm) on IOCC's work in Syria. The presentation will be at the Weinberg Memorial Library, Room 305. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided. No Admission fee, no reservations necessary.

Christmas Bazaar: St. Thomas More is holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 14, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Hall, 1625 N. Main Ave., Scranton, PA 18508.

Christmas crafts, gifts, ornaments and baked goods, Silent Auction with numerous gift baskets.

Vendors needed. For more information please contact Sandra Campbell c/o St. Thomas More Parish Office 570-343-0634, contact@stmscranton.org.

Bingo Started: St. Mary's Center will have BINGO at 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. every Tuesday. The Center will open at 5:00pm and the Early Bird will start at 6:30pm. Food and drinks are available for purchase. Great Food and Good Fun! All proceeds benefit St. Mary's.

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND THE OTHER BODILESS POWERS

November 8/21

From OCA.org (cont.)

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means "who is like unto God"), the faithful servitor of God,

as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, "Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!"

According to Church Tradition, and in the church services to the Archangel Michael, he participated in many other Old Testament events.

During the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt he went before them in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Through him the power of the Lord was made manifest, annihilating the Egyptians and Pharaoh who were in pursuit of the Israelites. The Archangel Michael defended Israel in all its misfortunes.

He appeared to Joshua Son of Navi and revealed the will of the Lord at the taking of Jericho (Josh 5:13-16). The power of the great Chief Commander of God was manifest in the annihilation of the 185 thousand soldiers of the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib (4/2 Kings 19:35); also in the smiting of the impious leader Heliodorus (2 Macc. 3: 24-26); and in the protection of the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misail, thrown into the fiery furnace for their refusal to worship an idol (Dan 3:22-25).

Through the will of God, the Chief Commander Michael transported the Prophet Habbakuk (December 2) from Judea to Babylon, to give food to Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 14:33-37).

The Archangel Michael disputed with the devil over the body of the holy Prophet Moses (Jude 1:9).

The holy Archangel Michael showed his power when he miraculously saved a young man, cast into the sea by robbers with a stone about his neck on the shores of Mt Athos. This story is found in the Athonite Paterikon, and in the Life of St Neophytus of Docheiariou (November 9).

We invoke St Michael for protection from invasion by enemies and from civil war, and for the defeat of adversaries on the field of battle. He conquers all spiritual enemies.

From ancient times the Archangel Michael was famed for his miracles in Rus. In the Volokolamsk Paterikon is a narrative of St Paphnutius of Borov with an account of Tatar tax-gatherers concerning the

miraculous saving of Novgorod the Great: “Therefore Great Novgorod was never taken by the Hagarenes... when... for our sins the godless Hagarene emperor Batu devoured and set the Russian land aflame and came to Novgorod, and God and the Most Holy Theotokos shielded it with an appearance of Michael the Archangel, who forbade him to enter into it. He [Batu] was come to the Lithuanian city and came toward Kiev and saw the stone church, over the doors of which the great Archangel Michael had written and spoken to the prince his allotted fate, ‘By this we have forbidden you entry into Great Novgorod’.”

In old Kiev at the time of the accepting of Christianity, a cathedral of the Archangel was built, and a monastery also was named for him. Archangel cathedrals are found at Smolensk, Nizhni Novgorod, Staritsa, at Great Ustiug (beginning of the thirteenth century), and a cathedral at Sviyazhsk. In Rus there was not a city, where there was not a church or chapel dedicated to the Archangel Michael.

Holy Scripture and Tradition give us the names of the Archangels:

- Gabriel: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God.
- Raphael: the healing of God, the curer of human infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15)
- Uriel: the fire or light of God, enlightener (3 Ezdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds.
- Selaphiel: the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (3 Ezdras 5:16). He prays to God for mankind.
- Jehudiel: the glorifying of God, encouraging

exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts.

- Barachiel: distributor of the blessings of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people.
- Jeremiel: the raising up to God (3 Ezdras 4:36)
- On icons the Archangels are depicted in according to the character of their service:
- Michael tramples the devil underfoot, and in his left hand holds a green date-tree branch, and in his right hand a spear with a white banner (or sometimes a fiery sword), on which is outlined a scarlet cross.
- Gabriel with a branch from Paradise, presented by him to the Most Holy Virgin, or with a shining lantern in his right hand and with a mirror made of jasper in his left.
- Raphael holds a vessel with healing medications in his left hand, and with his right hand leads Tobias, carrying a fish for healing (Tobit 5-8).
- Uriel in his raised right hand holds a naked sword at the level of his chest, and in his lowered left hand “a fiery flame.”
- Selaphiel in a prayerful posture, gazing downwards, hands folded on the chest.
- Jehudiel holds a golden crown in his right hand, in his left, a whip of three red (or black) thongs.
- Barachiel is shown with a white rose on his breast.
- Jeremiel holds balance-scales in his hand.

Each person has a guardian angel, and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel (Palladius, Dial. Ch. 10).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>St. Nicholas Orthodox Church</h1> <h2>December 2013</h2>						
1 9 th Luke. 23 rd Pentecost. Martyrs Plato & Roman. 8:45–9:15 Confessions 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Altar Society meets</i>	2	3 Pre-feast of the Entrance of Holy Mary 7 PM Great Vespers	4 ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS 9 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Pirohi Prep before & after Liturgy</i> 6 PM Adult Enrichment	5 Apostle Philemon 8 AM <i>Pirohi Making</i>	6 Bps. Amphilochios & Gregory 9:30–4:30 PM <i>Pirohi Sale</i>	7
8 10 th Luke. 24 th Pentecost. Last Day of Feast of Entrance. 8:45–9:15 Confessions 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Church School – All classes</i> <i>Men's Club meets</i>	9	10	11 Mar. Monk Stephen 6 AM <i>Pirohi Prep</i>	12 Martyr Paramon 8 AM <i>Pirohi Making</i>	13 Apostle Andrew 9:30–4:30 PM <i>Pirohi Sale</i>	14
15 11 th Luke. 25 th Pentecost. Prophet Habbakuk 8:45–9:15 Confessions 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy <i>St. Nicholas Dinner</i>	16	17 Great-martyr Barbara 6 AM <i>Pirohi Prep</i>	18 Monk Sabbas <i>Pirohi Making</i> 6 PM Adult Enrichment 7 PM Great Vespers	19 ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER 9 AM Divine Liturgy	20 Bishop Ambrose 9:30–4:30 PM : <i>Pirohi Sale AND Cookie Walk</i>	21
22 12 th Luke. 26 th Pentecost. Conception of Holy Mary. 8:45–9:15 Confessions 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy <i>Church School–Elem & Middle School</i> <i>Parish Board meets</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sun of Holy Ancestors. 13 th Luke. 27 th Pentecost. 8:45–9:15 Confessions 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	30	31				