

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 8, 2013

9th Sunday of Luke. 22st Sunday after Pentecost.

### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Dec. 8 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. 24<sup>nd</sup> of Pentecost.  
Last Day of Feast of Entrance

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets

*Church School - All Classes*

*Men's Club Meets*

*Pirohi Sale this week: Regular Wednesday, Thursday & Friday schedule. See monthly Calendar.*

Sun., Dec. 15 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. 25<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Prophet Habbakuk

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

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

*St. Nicholas Dinner*

### FEASTS AND FASTS

**Filipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent)** 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.

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.

*Eternal Light (21/1/13):* Memory of David Sandway - Carol Sakulich & family.

*Panachda (12/1/13):* David Sandway - Joe & Lorraine Kacaba.

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

**December 1, 2013**

\$ 485.00	General Collection
\$ 102.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
\$ 32.00	Holy Days
\$ 70.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 20.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 14.00	Tapers
\$ 20.00	Heat Offering
<b>\$ 743.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

### PARISH STUFF

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

**2014 Contribution Envelopes** are now available in the hall. Please pick yours up as soon as you can.

#### Parish Board update – open seats.

The following seats on the board are vacant, either immediately or in January:

*Vice-President:* Immediate opening.

*Trustee:* Immediate opening.

*President:* As of January 1.

If you are interested in volunteering to fill a board seat, you are asked to speak to Bill Thomas (before Dec. 31, while he is still Board President), or Fr. Nik, who will convey your wishes to the Board. If more than one person volunteers for a seat, the board will inform the parish of the proper procedure for selection.

**Church School** meets today, Dec. 8. All classes will meet.

**Men’s Club** meets today, Dec. 8.

**Parish Board** meets *Sunday, Dec. 22.*

**Pirohi Sales:** There are two more Pirohi Sales this month: this week and next week. *Please check the monthly calendar for days and times.*

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### CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

We are beginning to collect non-perishable food items for our Christmas Food Drive. You can begin to bring in Canned Goods, etc., anytime between now and Dec. 22. More info coming.

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.

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**Christmas “Mitten” Tree:** This time of year folks are not only hungry, they are cold, so . . .

**A gift giving tree for needy children** is being set up in the hall. We are asking for donations of *New Mittens, Gloves, Hats and Scarves* for those kids in need in our area. Just bring them and pin them on the tree. Thanks and God bless for your donations!

#### Church School Classes the Fall Semester:

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

We are still looking for a kindergarten teacher.

**Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** The next AEG will be Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6 PM. Back to Bible. All are welcome to attend. Each session is independent, so don’t feel that you missed too much to start coming now. Also, we have moved the session from upstairs to the hall, for the convenience of those who wish to attend.

**St. Nicholas Dinner Coming Up!** Our St. Nicholas Banquet is *Next Sunday!* The ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children (12 years of age and under). The menu will be:

- Salad
- Pork Tenderloin with gravy
- Mashed Potatoes
- Vegetable
- Rolls
- Dessert

We hope that you, your family, and friends are able to join in sharing a meal in honor of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Patron Saint of our parish. Please make your reservation by returning the ticket price to Nicholas Polanichka as soon as possible so that we may set a place for you to join in this joyous event.

**Preparations and set up** for the event will be *Saturday, December 14, beginning at 10 a.m.* Anyone wishing to help with setting up is welcome to come.

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

- Friday December 20<sup>st</sup>
- *9:30 A.M. until 4:30 PM or Sold Out*
- The price is \$9 for a container of cookies. Other Christmas treats will be available at various prices.
- 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>.

**CHURCH DECORATING SCHEDULE:** We are asking for volunteers to come on Saturday, December 21, beginning at 10 a.m. to clean and decorate the Church.

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

**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](mailto:contact@stmscranton.org) .

*International Dinner Club* Presents "**A Taste of Christmas**" on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18503. The menu is being prepared by Chef Joe Lomeo and will start with Irish Soda Bread and a Cranberry Salad with mixed greens tossed with walnuts, pears and dried cranberries with a shallot vinaigrette. Then there be a roasted Beef Tenderloin with a red wine glaze, Brussels Sprouts

roasted with chestnuts and smoked bacon and Roasted Potatoes with thyme and rosemary. The desert will be a Chocolate Peppermint Cake. For more information, ticket prices, etc., call 570.343.5151.

**Malanka!** Northeastern Pennsylvania's 10th Annual MALANKA is scheduled for Saturday evening, January 11, 2014 from 6:00pm to 1:00am at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 728 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton.

The festive evening will include a generous Slavic and American dinner buffet catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers, cash bar, complimentary bubbly toast and dancing to the internationally known Ukrainian orchestra "Fata Morgana". Door prizes will be awarded along with special awards for the lady and gentleman wearing the most attractive Ukrainian embroidered apparel.

Tickets are \$40.00 per person and can be obtained by contacting Michael Trusz at 570 489-1256. *No tickets will be sold at the door - advance reservations are required.*

**Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant, PA., will be observing its 125th Anniversary (1888-2013).** Christmas Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, December 24th, at 10:00 p.m. (the traditional Midnight Divine Liturgy ) will be recited in Church Slavonic. (135 River Street, Olyphant). On Christmas Day, December 25th, at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, the Church will reflect the celebration of Christmas and the 125th Anniversary (1888-2013) Divine Liturgy. The Church choir will sing the traditional Ukrainian Christmas Songs and sing the Divine Liturgy in Church Slavonic under the direction of Mr. Patrick Marcinko. Parishioners and families will see the renovations that were accomplished over the past few months, due to the many 125th Anniversary Fund Raisers over the past 3 years. The gold-leaf painting of the Iconostas and overall painting of the church, with interior and exterior updates. All are invited to attend. Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor, 570-489-2271. web site: <http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com/>. P.S. Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck, the pastor for 57 years, and the oldest Catholic Serving priest in the USA, retired at the age of 98 in Dec. 2008) will be turning 102 years old on December 27, 2013. Health permitting, Monsignor will be attending the

Christmas Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 25th.

## **SAINT NICHOLAS, THE WONDERWORKER, ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA**

*Adapted From*

<http://oca.org/saints/lives/2013/12/06/103484-st-nicholas-the-wonderworker-and-archbishop-of-myra-in-lycia>. Accessed December 7, 2013.

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula), and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. St Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder, who aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom St Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. St Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, St Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to St Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship. St Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, St Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshipping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, St Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, and yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, "Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world, and glorify My Name there." So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

*To Be Continued!*