

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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June 1, 2014

FATHERS OF THE 1ST COUNCIL OF NICEA

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., June 1 FATHERS OF THE 1ST COUNCIL OF NICEA.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special sheets.
Altar Society regular meeting
scheduled.

Today is Camp Nazareth Family Day.

Sat., June 14 LAST ALL-SOULS SATURDAY.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy/Parastas with the
reading of the lists of the deceased
(Hramoty)

Sun., June 8 PENTECOST SUNDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - pp. 213–216
After Liturgy, The Kneeling Prayers of
Pentecost.
Men's Club regular meeting scheduled.

Mon., June 9 COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and the Pentecost
Procession - Special Sheets.

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

ALL SOULS SATURDAY – This coming Saturday, June 14, is the last All-Souls Saturday of the year. We will read the lists of the deceased on this day.

PENTECOST MONDAY is the feast of the Holy Spirit. Divine Liturgy and the procession in honor of the Holy Spirit will be at 9 AM on that day.

NO FASTING; The week of Pentecost, June 8 — June 14, we do not fast as we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Joseph Mahrunich.

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary Chupron. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Fr. George Dursa. Jada Eiden. Benjamin Groves III. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Mildred Orzolek. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigie. Fr. Donald Valasek. Gary Wassel. Julia Worobey.

At Home: Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. George & Anna Senich. Kathryn Stocoski.

Assisted Living Homes: Michael Besket. Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

Eternal Light: Memory of Narcy Skotlewski by Marge Skotlewski.

PARISH STUFF

Please welcome *Fr. Frank Rella*, a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, who is substituting for me today.

The Tabernacle on the Main Altar was very much in need of repair and refurbishing. This is currently being

done and hopefully it will be finished by next Sunday.

Altar Society: the regular meeting is scheduled for today.

Men's Club: the regular monthly meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, June 8.

Easter Egg Hunt: A belated Thanks and God Bless! To Christina Bracey for the wonderful coloring books she donated for the kids, and to Sue Danchak for once again donating the candy for the Egg Hunt.

Donation List - remains in the hall for all to add to as we seek to put together a list of all who have donated liturgical items to the parish.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, May 25 2014

\$ 590.00	General Collection
\$ 108.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 23.00	Holy Days
\$ 10.00	Tapers
\$ 200.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 931.00	Total Collection

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Olyphant Queen City Days Picnic: Olyphant Eureka Volunteer Fire Hose Company#4, will be conducting The *Queen City Days picnic* on Thursday June 5, Friday June 6, Saturday June 7 and Sunday June 8th 2014 for the benefit of the Volunteer Fire Company, on the grounds of Rep. Joseph Wargo and Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck Sports Complex, 700 Block of East Grant Street, Olyphant, (Fern Hill Section, exit 2 off of the Casey Highway, Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant. The Parade will be on Friday, June 6th at 7:00 p.m. from Downtown Olyphant to the top of East Grant Street to the Picnic. Free Fireworks Display will be on Sunday June 8th approximately 9:00 p.m.

Local groups will be offering a Variety of Food and Beverages, "Bingo" and Raffle by SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, "Big Ball" tournament by local softball teams, rides for kids of all ages, children activities, live music nightly, K-9 demonstrations by Lackawanna Police Swat Team, and the Olyphant Police Department will offer fingerprinting for Children. A good time for all!!! Plenty of Free Parking!!!

Contact John Sedlak (Mayor of Olyphant) at 570-383-1406.

Benefit Motorcycle Ride for the benefit of Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, Humane Society (South Abington Twp., PA) will be held on Sunday June 8th, 2014, Starting at Electric City Harley Davidson, on Route 6, at 1534 Scranton-Carbondale Highway, Scranton, PA. (By the Circle Drive-In) Registration is 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Ride starts at 12:00 Noon. Approximately 57 miles and 1 1/2 hour ride. Donation is \$15.00 per Rider and \$5.00 per Passenger.

The Motorcycle Ride ends at AJ's Club Soda Restaurant, 1017 Main Street, Peckville, (turn onto Main Street, By The Mid-Valley Hospital) with a cook out. The Cook-out will start at 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Animals will be available for adoption from the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, open to the public. Contact Greg at 570-351-5256 and Nancy at 570-561-5560.

International Dinner featuring "France" will be prepared for you by Chef Joe Lomeo on June 12, 2014. The menu will start with a Three Onion Soup topped with Asiago crisps and a Brie Cheese and fruit platter topped with a fruit compo. Then the entree of Chicken Cordon Blue a Panko crusted Chicken stuffed with Swiss Cheese and Smoked Ham, topped with a white wine cream sauce served with roasted Garlic Potatoes and Asparagus. The dessert will be a creamy Salted Caramel Cheese Cake. Water, Soda, Coffee, and Tea are included and a cash bar is available. Seatings are at 5:30 and 6:30pm and is \$20.00 per person. Please make reservations by June 9th by calling 570-343-5151.

FIRST ANNUAL DIOCESAN YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT!

This summer, our Diocese is pleased to offer a new event specifically for our young women. The First Annual Young Women's Retreat will provide an opportunity for the young women of our Diocese to spend time in each other's company, have fun, pray together, and learn about how God calls each woman to serve His church with her talents and abilities.

This Retreat will take place concurrently with the Diocesan Altar Boy's Retreat. In many ways, these separate experiences are meant to parallel each other, with each focusing on the experience, vocations, and unique gifts bestowed upon the young men and

women of our Church. Over the years, both the clergy and laity have expressed a great interest in creating an event tailored to our girls and young women. This year, this hope will come to fruition.

The first annual Young Women's Retreat will take place from June 29 – July 2, 2014.

The Retreat will be hosted by the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Windber, Pennsylvania. Young women in our Diocese ages 12 – 18 are invited to attend.

Space is limited to the first thirty respondents, so please register as soon as possible. Registration deadline is June 2, 2014.

All parishes of the Diocese are urged to underwrite the \$90.00 participation fee for their young women in recognition of all the ways that these young women serve their parishes.

DIOCESAN ALTAR BOY RETREAT 2014:

Plans are being finalized for this year's Altar Boy Retreat - "Encounter 2014". This Diocesan-wide event will take place from Sunday evening, June 29th (Registration is from 6pm till 8 p.m.) until Wednesday, July 2nd. The Retreat will once again take place at our Christ the Savior Seminary, Cathedral and Education Center in Johnstown and SS. Peter & Paul Church facilities in Windber. For our outing this year, we are planning a visit to PNC Park to see the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. This is the time and place for your faithful Altar Servers to join other Altar Boys from all over our Diocese.

The cost of this year's retreat is \$100.00. This includes everything for the three days and also includes a commemorative "Encounter 2014" T-Shirt. Please note that we are asking that all payments be made by the registration deadline. Registrations that are not paid by that time cannot be guaranteed a T-shirt or even a spot at the retreat. We hope to see everyone there!

Hard copies of the Parents' Letter and the Registration form are available in the hall. Electronic registration is once again available this year and is strongly encouraged by using the following link:

You can also find the form on the Diocesan website, ACROD.org.

Concert: A Tribute to Johnny Richards. The "Upper Valley Winds" Founder and conductor Patrick J. Marcinko Jr. (Maestro of the Choir of SS. Cyril's and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Olyphant, PA) is having a concert in Scranton, PA, on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. "A TRIBUTE" to Johnny Richards-composer, arranger, genius musician. It will be held at the Scranton High School (by the Stadium), at 63 Mike Munchak Way, Scranton, PA at 7:00 p.m. Please dress appropriately. One of his (Richards) most famous composition is the "Cuban Fire Suite" Tickets are \$25.00 per adult and \$10.00 High School Student with I.D. Any questions, please contact Mr. Marcinko at 570-876-2888.

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

“And Ascended into Heaven...”

An article by V. Rev. George Florovsky, D.D. Originally published in St Vladimir's Seminary Quarterly, Vol. 2 # 3, 1954. Excerpted from www.OCA.org

(Part two) The mystery of the Apostles' "unbelief" is partly disclosed in the narrative of the Gospel: "But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel," with disillusionment and complaint said the two disciples to their mysterious Companion on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:21). They meant: He was betrayed, condemned to death and crucified. The news of the Resurrection brought by the women only "astonished" them. They still wait for an earthly triumph, for an external victory. The same temptation possesses their hearts, which first prevented them from accepting "the preaching of the Cross" and made them argue every time the Saviour tried to reveal His mystery to them. "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" (Luke 24:26). It was still difficult to understand this.

He had the power to arise, why did He allow what that had happened to take place at all? Why did He take upon Himself disgrace, blasphemy and wounds? In the eyes of all Jerusalem, amidst the vast crowds assembled for the Great Feast, He was condemned and suffered a shameful death. And now He enters not into the Holy City, neither to the people which beheld His shame and death, nor to the High Priests and elders, nor to Pilate—so that He might make their crime

obvious and smite their pride. Instead, He sends His disciples away to remote Galilee and appears to them there. Even much earlier the disciples wondered, “How is it that Thou wilt manifest Thyself unto us, and not unto the world?” (John 14:22). Their wonder continues, and even on the day of His glorious Ascension the Apostles question the Lord, “Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). They still did not comprehend the meaning of His Resurrection, they did not understand what it meant that He was “ascending” to the Father. Their eyes were opened but later, when “the promise of the Father” had been fulfilled.

In the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ’s Resurrection.

The Lord did not rise in order to return again to the fleshly order of life, so as to live again and commune with the disciples and the multitudes by means of preaching and miracles. Now he does not even stay with them, but only “appears” to them during the forty days, from time to time, and always in a miraculous and mysterious manner. “He was not always with them now, as He was before the Resurrection,” comments St John Chrysostom. “He came and again disappeared, thus leading them on to higher conceptions. He no longer permitted them to continue in their former relationship toward Him, but took effectual measures to secure these two objects: That the fact of His Resurrection should be believed, and that He Himself should be ever after apprehended to be greater than man.” There was something new and unusual in His person (cf. John 21:1-14). As St John Chrysostom says, “It was not an open presence, but a certain testimony of the fact that He was present.” That is why the disciples were confused and frightened. Christ arose not in the same way as those who were restored to life before Him. Theirs was a resurrection for a time, and they returned to life in the same body, which was subject to death and corruption—returned to the previous mode of life. But Christ arose for ever, unto eternity. He arose in a body of glory, immortal and incorruptible. He arose, never to die, for “He clothed the mortal in the splendor of incorruption.” His glorified Body was already exempt from the fleshly order of existence. “It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is

raised a spiritual body” (I Cor. 15:42-44). This mysterious transformation of human bodies, of which St Paul was speaking in the case of our Lord, had been accomplished in three days. Christ’s work on earth was accomplished. He had suffered, was dead and buried, and now rose to a higher mode of existence. By His Resurrection He abolished and destroyed death, abolished the law of corruption, “and raised with Himself the whole race of Adam.” Christ has risen, and now “no dead are left in the grave” (cf. The Easter Sermon of St John Chrysostom). And now He ascends to the Father, yet He does not “go away,” but abides with the faithful for ever (cf. The Kontakion of Ascension). For He raises the very earth with Him to heaven, and even higher than any heaven. God’s power, in the phrase of St John Chrysostom, “manifests itself not only in the Resurrection, but in something much stronger.” For “He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19).

And with Christ, man’s nature ascends also.

“We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven,” says St John Chrysostom. “We who were unworthy of earthly dominion have been raised to the Kingdom on high, have ascended higher than heaven, have come to occupy the King’s throne, and the same nature from which the angels guarded Paradise, stopped not until it ascended to the throne of the Lord.” By His Ascension the Lord not only opened to man the entrance to heaven, not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise “transferred man” to the high places. “He honored them He loved by putting them close to the Father.” God quickened and raised us together with Christ, as St Paul says, “and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephes. 2:6). Heaven received the inhabitants of the earth. “The First fruits of them that slept” sits now on high, and in Him all creation is summed up and bound together. “The earth rejoices in mystery, and the heavens are filled with joy.”

“The terrible ascent....” Terror-stricken and trembling stand the angelic hosts, contemplating the Ascension of Christ. And trembling they ask each other, “What is this vision? One who is man in appearance ascends in His body higher than the heavens, as God.” (*To be continued*)