

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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June 29, 2014

3RD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., June 29 3rd Sunday of Pentecost. Bishop
Tychon the Wonderworker

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 84–86

Fri., July 4 Martyr Julian of Tarsus

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sun., July 6 4th Sunday of Pentecost. Martyr
Agrippina

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 87–89

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

APOSTLES' FAST begins Monday, June 16. This fast is the least strict of the four fasting periods of the year. Traditional rules call for Strict Fast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The diocesan rules require merely the usual Wednesday and Friday fast. All are welcome to do more than the minimum.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Joseph Mahrnich.

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary Chupron. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Fr. George Dursa. Jada Eiden. 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 Tigue. 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 Martin & Anna Hodanich by Madelyn Hodanich and Marge Sotklewski.

Panachida: Joseph Mahrnich - 40 day

PARISH STUFF

The Tabernacle refurbishing was donated anonymously.

Altar Server Retreat: Please pray for our altar server going on retreat today, that he and all the servers have a safe trip and blessed retreat.

Altar Society News: The Altar Society meeting on June 22 discussed the possibility of disbanding the Society, with many of those present being in favor of that action. However, it was decided to make this question a part of the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting in October to get more input from parishioners. Meanwhile, the Society is still planning the following events for the rest of this year:

- Hold a Bake Sale in conjunction with the BBQ Chicken Sale by the Men's Club in August.
- Help with putting on the annual St. Nicholas Banquet.
- Hold a Cookie Walk in December for Christmas

baking.

Anyone is welcome to participate in any of these events, whether or not you are a formal member of the Society. Please remember that all proceeds of Altar Society events go toward the good of the parish.

Anyone who plans to participate in either the Bake Sale in August or the Cookie Walk in December is asked to touch base with Carol Pugh (toots638@comcast.net. 570-489-2321) about the event.

Knoebel Family Day Saturday, August 9- This year the parish Family Day will be on Saturday, August 9. The Men's Club will be offering ride tickets to the children of the parish, as in past years. They may also be making some other arrangements. For more information, please contact Bill Wassel at 570-241-3700 or bwassel@hibblerealty.com .

Annual Men's Club Baseball Outing at the Railriders Park. Plans are currently in the works and a date will be announced soon.

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.

PAINT THE TOWN! Hill Section Rehab! NWNPA and Habitat for Humanity of Lackawanna County are hosting a Paint the Town event for **homeowners** in the Hill Section of Scranton. This event will be at no cost to the homeowner and **volunteers** will assist with exterior painting, interior painting, general home maintenance and clean-up. We are trying to get the word out to homeowners in the Hill Section so that they are aware of his program.

There is a Poster in the hall, along with sign-up sheets for the following:

- Any homeowners in the Hill Section can pick up an application form in the hall which will help you determine if you are eligible for this help and to apply for it.
- Volunteers – if you would like to volunteer your time to help with this project, there are application forms in the hall.
- Sponsors – if you would like to donate toward the materials needed for this project, there is information about that in the hall also.

Our Parish's Community Involvement in the Paint the Town event:

The Parish Board decided to make the parish a *Sponsor* by donating toward the materials needed for this event (if you know about Habitat for Humanity, then you know that they recruit volunteer labor, and then have the materials paid for). So, on

SUNDAY, JULY 13 there will be a special collection at Liturgy to help support this project. All are asked to be generous. Meanwhile, everyone is encouraged to be a volunteer for this project.

Parish Board Meeting, May 18, 2014 Highlights:

Bill Thomas and Walter Orzolek were elected as Trustees to the St. Nicholas Board. It was voted for Fr. Nik to invite the Bishop to the St. Nicholas Dinner in December. As always, the entire minutes are available in the office in the Church Hall.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, June 15, 2014

\$ 630.60	General Collection
\$ 5.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 133.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 11.00	Holy Days
\$ 13.00	Tapers
\$ 3.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 14.00	Eternal Light
\$ 809.60	Total Collection

Sunday, June 22, 2014

\$ 537.00	General Collection
\$ 74.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 26.00	Holy Days
\$ 6.00	Tapers
\$ 7.00	Heat Offering
\$ 650.00	Total Collection

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

THE SCRANTON/STEAMTOWN TRAIN is going to Olyphant, PA on July 5th, 2014. And All Are Invited to Attend the Free Walking Guided Tour of Olyphant!!!

The "National Park Service, (NPS) U.S. Department of the Interior " Scranton-Steamtown Train will be coming to Olyphant, PA on July 5, 2014, Saturday.

(100-125 passengers can fill the train.) Passengers will embark on the train at 12:30 p.m. from the Scranton Steamtown Station. Heading North towards Olyphant "The Queen City " Train Station. Upon arrival, at 1:30 p.m., the FREE guided walking tour of Olyphant will begin at the Queen City Train Station (Lackawanna Ave. and the RR Tracks) The public is invited to attend.

The FREE guided Walking tour, starting at the Olyphant Train Station will point out the interesting facts about the town: Tour of the Olyphant Borough Building, War Monuments, local churches, tour of St. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, etc. Lunch will be available at ThirstTy's Bar and Grill Restaurant. Country singer, Danielle Kleha will be performing at ThirstTy's on Lincoln Street. The Steamtown Train will be leaving Olyphant at 3:30 p.m. sharp, returning to the Steamtown Station, arriving approximately 4:30 p.m in Scranton, PA. Vince Shuta of Shuta Multimedia will be covering the tour with video-photography.

For curiosity seekers check out "Mysteries of Olyphant" at Olyphant Pennsylvania, www.burlingtonnews.net/olyphant.html. For additional information contact June DeBlasio 570-766-1570 or Lauren Telep 570-383-0319 and NPS Scranton-Steam Town Train for reservations (recommended) and tickets call 570-340-5204.

ST. MARY'S CENTER INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. presents "God Bless America" on Thursday, July 10, 2014. The price is \$20.00 per person and you may call for reservations at 570-343-5151 before July 7, 2014. Seatings are at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Our America fare will be prepared for you by Chef Joe Lomeo and will start with a Cucumber & Melon Salad (Cucumber, cantaloupe, watermelon and prosciutto drizzled with honey), Rib & Popper Platter (2 tender apple smoked back ribs, served with smoked jalapeno pepper). The entree will be Pulled Pork & Chicken (smoked pulled pork topped with coleslaw along with smoked chicken thigh and served with chef's homemade baked beans and potato salad). Dessert will be Apple Pie a la mode. Coffee, tea and soda included. Cash bar is available.

ST. MARY'S CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa Sunday, June 29, 2014 on the Church grounds. 11am to 4pm. Eat in or take out. Adults

\$12.00 and Children under 10 - \$6.00. Good food, beer, music and raffles!

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. Tickets are \$25.00 per adult and \$10.00 High School Student with I.D. Questions, contact Mr. Marcinko at 570-876-2888.

ORTHODOX TOURS presents *Ancient & Holy in the Holy Land* – an Orthodox Christian Pilgrimage of some of the Most Holy Sites in all Christendom. The Pilgrimage takes place October 12 through Oct 25, 2014. More details on the Poster in the hall. For info, contact Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky at ortours@gmail.com.

Flea Market & Ziti Dinner St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 North Main Street, Pittston, Pa. will be having their 18TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET & ZITI DINNER on August 2nd & 3rd, 2014. The Flea Market will be in the Church Hall. Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9am to 4pm and Sunday, Aug. 3rd from 9am - 3pm. We will also have a BAKE SALE, RAFFLE and ETHNIC FOOD SALE during the Flea Market. The ZITI DINNER will be Sat. Aug. 3rd from 12 to 4pm and on Sun. Aug. 4th from 10am to 3pm. Take-outs are available only during dinner time schedule. Walk-in's are welcome! All proceeds benefit St. Michael's! Come one, come all!

NATIVITY OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS
PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST, JOHN

Commemorated on June 24/July 7

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of St John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, St Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that St Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior,

the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

St Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy. Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. St John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon St Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked St Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and St Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, St Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. St Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD OF "THE THREE HANDS"

Commemorated on June 28/July 11

The Icon of the Mother of God, "Of the Three Hands": In the ninth century during the time of the

Iconoclasts, St. John of Damascus (December 4) was zealous in his veneration of holy icons. Because of this, he was slandered by the emperor and iconoclast Leo III the Isaurian (717-740), who informed the Damascus caliph that St. John was committing treasonous acts against him. The caliph gave orders to cut off the hand of the monk and take it to the marketplace. Towards evening St. John, having asked the caliph for the cut-off hand, put it to its joint and fell to the ground before the icon of the Mother of God. The monk begged Our Lady to heal the hand, which had written in defense of Orthodoxy. After long prayer he fell asleep and saw in a dream that the All-Pure Mother of God had turned to him promising him quick healing.

Before this the Mother of God bid him toil without fail with this hand. Having awakened from sleep, St. John saw that his hand was unharmed. In thankfulness for this healing St. John placed on the icon a hand fashioned of silver, from which the icon received its name "Of Three Hands." (Some iconographers, in their ignorance, have mistakenly depicted the Most Holy Theotokos with three arms and three hands.) According to Tradition, St. John wrote a hymn of thanksgiving to the Mother of God: "All of creation rejoices in You, O Full of Grace," which appears in place of the hymn "It is Truly Meet" in the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

St. John Damascene accepted monasticism at the monastery of St. Sava the Sanctified and there bestowed his wonderworking icon. The Lavra presented the icon "Of Three Hands" in blessing to St. Sava, Archbishop of Serbia (+ 1237, January 12). During the time of an invasion of Serbia by the Turks, some Christians who wanted to protect the icon, entrusted it to the safekeeping of the Mother of God Herself. They placed it upon a donkey, which without a driver proceeded to Athos and stopped in front of the Hilandar monastery. The monks put the icon in the monastery's cathedral church (katholikon). During a time of discord over the choice of igumen, the Mother of God deigned to head the monastery Herself, and from that time Her holy icon has occupied the igumen's place in the temple. At the Hilandar monastery there is chosen only a vicar, and from the holy icon the monks take a blessing for every obedience.