

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 7.4

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., pastor

Rectory: 570-344-5917

Cell: 724-953-6046

Hall - 570-344-1522

www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org

nferencz35@gmail.com

July 27, 2014

7TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., July 27 7th Sunday of Pentecost. Fathers of the first six Ecumenical Councils.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tropar p. 96. All the rest p. 164.

SAT., AUG. 2 HOLY PROPHET ELIAS

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – p. 165
Blessing of Cars

Sun., Aug. 3 8th Sunday of Pentecost. Simeon & John, Fools for Christ. Prophet Ezekiel

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 99–102
High School Graduation

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Feasts: The Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias is this Saturday, Aug. 2. On this day it has been customary in the modern world to bless cars.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

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 John Thomas, Marion Thomas & Tommy Thomas by Bill & Beverly Thomas.

PARISH STUFF

Congratulations & God Bless! To Courtney Burns, who graduated High School this year. May God grant her and her family many, blessed years!

Knoebel Family Day Saturday, August 9- This year the parish Family Day will be on Saturday, August 9. The Men's Club is donating ride tickets to the children of the parish, as in past years. A form has been added to this bulletin. It would help if you would fill it out and return it to Bill. For more information, please contact Bill Wassel at 570-241-3700 or bwassel@hibblerealty.com.

Chicken Barbeque & Bake Sale! Saturday, August 16, Noon to 5 PM. The Men's Club is holding the BBQ, and the Altar Society is having the bake sale in support of the BBQ. Put it on your calendar!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Will be available in next week's bulletin.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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. 2nd from 12 to 4pm and on Sun. Aug. 3rd from 10am to 3pm. Take-outs are available only during dinner time schedule. Walk-ins are welcome! All proceeds benefit St. Michael's! Come one, come all!

Flea Market!!! Something for Everyone. At Sacred Heart Church of Peckville.

LOCATION: 1101 Willow Street, Peckville, Pa

CONTACT: 570-383-3244

DIRECTIONS: Main Avenue to Mid-Valley Hospital/Out Patient Clinic, bear right (coming from Dickson City), Turn left (coming from Eynon), turn right on Electric Street and then turn left on Willow Street. (Located 2 blocks from Mid-Valley Hospital)

Plenty of FREE PARKING in Church's Parking Lot

DATES:

Friday August 8, 2014 8:00 am -2:00 pm

Saturday August 9, 2014 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday August 10, 2014 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Huge flea market, many new items available, plus food, and instant bingo!

23rd Annual Ukrainian Folk Festival celebrating Ukraine's Independence Day. Sunday, August 24, starting at 12:00 noon. At the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub, County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA. Enjoy an outdoor concert of Ukrainian Folk and Modern Dance, Music and Song, Featuring Dance Ensembles from Whippany, NJ & Jenkintown, PA. Also, violinist Innesa Tymychko Dekajlo from Lviv, Vox Ethnika Orchestra from New York and the Spiv Zhytthia Chamber Choir from Washington, DC. Ukrainian ethnic foods, baked goods, picnic fare and refreshments available. For info: see flyer on Bulletin Board and/or 267-664-3857, www.tryzub.org.

HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

July 20/August 2. From www.oca.org

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: "When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed

by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.



Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism St Olga (July 14) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

PARISH FAMILY DAY AT KNOEBEL'S PARK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Please put in collection basket or return to Bill Wassel

Yes, we are planning to come.

Name _____

Number of people total _____ Number of children _____

Phone _____ Email _____