

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 24, 2014

11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Aug. 24 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. Post-Festive of the Transfiguration. Virgin Martyr Susanna. Martyr Georgia.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.

THU., AUG. 28 DORMITION OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs. – pp. 169–172

Sun., Aug. 31 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. Post-festive of the Dormition. Martyrs Florus & Laurus.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

3:00 PM Holy Mystery of Marriage – Greg Dolhy & Kathy Wong

## FEASTS . . . & FASTS

**Fasts:** *DORMITION FAST:* The Dormition Fast goes to August 14(27) (the Feast of the Dormition of Holy Mary Theotokos is August 15(28)). The traditional fast requires a Strict Fast (no meat, dairy, wine or oil) for those fourteen days, with these exceptions: the fast is mitigated (lessened) on Saturdays. There is no fast on Sundays. Diocesan rules require only the usual fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Feasts:** DORMITION OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS: Thursday, August 28. On this day, we bless flowers and herbs. All are encouraged to bring a bouquet or a basket of herbs for blessing.

## 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. Theresa Niester. 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.

*Altar Vigil Lights:* Health of Janina Dyrdol by E. Bonk.

*Eternal Light:* Memory of Donald Naglak by Delores Naglak.

## PARISH STUFF

**Chicken Barbeque & Bake Sale Results:** The Men's Club netted \$280 on the BBQ Dinner. The Altar Society netted \$282 on the Bake Sale. Their 50-50 raffle is still going on until Aug. 30. If you would like to purchase tickets see Judy Bonk.

**The Altar Society** will meet on Sunday, Sept 7, after Divine Liturgy.

**Cemetery News: A Notice from St. George's Church in Taylor:** WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CEMETERY?? Over the past several weeks, John Orleski and Ray Paroby have been utilizing a backhoe to repair some long standing water issues and up-righting several large heavy tomb stones. They have been trenching of over 400' of ditches to place drain tile to alleviate major water issues flooding some grave areas and also replacing a section the water supply pipe to the water basin where people get water from and also the drain pipe from the water basin 275' to the road drain down by the gate. Both of these pipes (supply and drain) were crushed in several places and were causing the surrounding grave grounds to be saturated with water because of the pipe breakages. The gates have been locked for safety reasons because of the open trenches. Thank you for your patience.

**PIROHI SALES.** Pirohi making begins in mid-September. To continue with this much needed fund-raiser, we need volunteers to help. Last season the work crew varied from 11 people on the best days, to 6 on the worst. This is a significant drop from past sales. We really need about 11 - 12 minimum workers to be able to effectively produce our usual output. Under 11, and especially at 6, even with working doubly hard, we were just not able to do the work. This resulted in having to turn customers away and, more importantly, placed a great hardship on the remaining volunteers.

This is a major fund-raiser. In order to keep the doors of St. Nicholas Church open to our faithful parishioners, funds are needed to pay the many expenses incurred with the running of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (telephone, gas, water, electric, air conditioning, insurance on the property, etc.). The pirohi revenue greatly helps to meet these expenses. St. Nicholas Church needs your help. Please consider volunteering. Our ability to continue this vital revenue generator will directly depend upon the number of folks we can get to commit to the fall pirohi making.

Next Sunday, Aug. 31, we are going to ask for a show of hands at the end of Liturgy from those who are willing to commit as much as possible to work pirohi. In order to help you with your decision, we'd like to make 2 notes:

1. This is the planned schedule for the Friday Sale Dates:

- a. September 12
  - b. September 26
  - c. October 10
  - d. October 24
  - e. November 7
  - f. November 21
  - g. December 5
  - h. December 19
2. Prep days are planned to be the usual -- Wednesday for potato peeling and Thursday for pinching. However, we are flexible. Also, depending on the volunteers' needs, we can also be flexible about times, etc. We are willing to try whatever will work for the most people.

Please consider helping with this important parish endeavor. Thanks for your support.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

**Sunday, August 17, 2014**

\$ 313.00	General Collection
\$ 88.00	7-day Candles
\$ 27.00	Holy Days
\$ 180.00	Dues
\$ 67.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 10.00	Tapers
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 5.00	Altar Vigil Lights
<b>\$ 697.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Zhythhia 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](http://www.tryzub.org).

**St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, International Dinner Club**, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18505 presents "RUSSIA". The date will be Thursday, September 11, 2014 and there will be seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Reservations must be made by September 4th by calling 570-343-5151. The menu starts with a Creamy Mushroom and Potato Soup and the Entrée will be a Braised Pork Chop with onions and a Sour Cream Sauce, served with potatoes and leafy greens. The dessert will be Tender Crepes stuffed with Sweet Cream Cheese and topped with berries. A non-alcoholic beverage service is included with your meal and a Cash Bar is available. Only \$20.00 per person!

**SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA- 4th Annual Rummage Sale** in Sept. 2014. Where? The American Legion Hall, Raymond Henry Post #327, 101 Willow Ave./Lackawanna Ave.in Olyphant. Dates: Friday-September 19, Saturday-September 20 and Sunday-September 21. Time: Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Food: Sponsored by the American Legion Woman's Auxiliary. Raffle Baskets: The Raffle Baskets will be "raffled" off on Sunday September 21, 2014. We will have: (Assortment of items) PRICED TO SELL!!!!

Furniture, household items, kitchen items, bathroom, bedroom, living room, basement, outdoor, garden, craft items, religious, toys, games, sporting goods, books, holiday, ladies accessories, children's books, tools, NEW ITEMS, music media-records etc... antiques, Ukrainian items, etc....) Some of the New Items Include: The 125th Anniversary (1888-2013) DVD for SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, "Christmas in Ukraine" Book from World Book, "Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks" from the Sisterhood of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, New York. Volume I and II.

For more information contact Father Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor at 570-489-2271 and Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Vine St. Old Forge, PA** is having a **Gigantic Flea Market** on Saturday, September 27 (hours - 8am to 4pm) & Sunday, September 28, 2014 (hours - 10am to 4pm)

in the church hall. We have everything you can think of and then some. Antiques, vintage, furniture, appliances, flowers, clothing, toys and much much more. Various foods, baked goods and refreshments will also be available! Come one and all, rain or shine!

## THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

August 15/28

(Continued): from <http://oca.org/>.

According to Tradition, that from the compiler of Church history Nicephorus Callistus (fourteenth century), the Mother of God "was of average stature, or as others suggest, slightly more than average; Her hair golden in appearance; Her eyes bright with pupils like shiny olives; Her eyebrows strong in character and moderately dark, Her nose pronounced and Her mouth vibrant bespeaking sweet speech; Her face was neither round nor angular, but somewhat oblong; the palm of Her hands and fingers were longish...

In conversation with others She preserved decorum, neither becoming silly nor agitated, and indeed especially never angry; without artifice, and direct, She was not overly concerned about Herself, and far from pampering Herself, She was distinctly full of humility. Regarding the clothing which She wore, She was satisfied to have natural colors, which even now is evidenced by Her holy head-covering. Suffice it to say, a special grace attended all Her actions." (Nicephoros Callistus borrowed his description from St Epiphanius of Cyprus (May 12), from the "Letter to Theophilus Concerning Icons."

The circumstances of the Dormition of the Mother of God were known in the Orthodox Church from apostolic times. Already in the first century, the Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite wrote about Her "Falling-Asleep." In the second century, the account of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven is found in the works of Meliton, Bishop of Sardis. In the fourth century, St Epiphanius of Cyprus refers to the tradition about the "Falling Asleep" of the Mother of God. In the fifth century, St Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem, told the holy Byzantine Empress Pulcheria: "Although there is no account of the circumstances of Her death in Holy Scripture, we know about them from the most ancient

and credible Tradition.” This tradition was gathered and expounded in the Church History of Nicephorus Callistus during the fourteenth century.

At the time of Her blessed Falling Asleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was again at Jerusalem. Her fame as the Mother of God had already spread throughout the land and had aroused many of the envious and the spiteful against Her. They wanted to make attempts on Her life; but God preserved Her from enemies.

Day and night She spent her time in prayer. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here She offered up fervent prayer. More than once, enemies of the Savior sought to hinder Her from visiting her holy place, and they asked the High Priest for a guard to watch over the Grave of the Lord. The Holy Virgin continued to pray right in front of them, yet unseen by anyone.

In one such visit to Golgotha, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Her and announced Her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge of this, the Archangel gave Her a palm branch. With these heavenly tidings the Mother of God returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending Her (Sepphora, Abigail, and Jael). She summoned Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of Her impending Repose.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed also that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to Her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven, closing Her prayer with the word “Amen.” The Mother of God took it that the voice meant the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples and the holy Bodiless Powers.

The faithful, whose number by then was impossible to count, gathered together, says St John of Damascus, like clouds and eagles, to listen to the Mother of God. Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. St John the Theologian, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin’s repose was at hand.

Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The

Disciples greeted Her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard Her prayer and fulfilled Her heart’s desire, and She began speaking about Her imminent end.

During this conversation the Apostle Paul also appeared in a miraculous manner together with his disciples Dionysius the Areopagite, St Hierotheus, St Timothy and others of the Seventy Apostles. The Holy Spirit had gathered them all together so that they might be granted the blessing of the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and more fittingly to see to the burial of the Mother of the Lord. She called each of them to Herself by name, She blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured in preaching the Gospel of Christ. To each She wished eternal bliss, and prayed with them for the peace and welfare of the whole world.

Then came the third hour (9 A.M.), when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The holy Disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of Her demise and of the arrival of Her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory shone forth, before which the blazing candles paled in comparison. All who it saw took fright. Descending from Heaven was Christ, the King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

Seeing Her Son, the Mother of God exclaimed: “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God My Savior, for He hath regarded the low estate of His Handmaiden” (Luke 1:46-48) and, rising from Her bed to meet the Lord, She bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid Her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave Her soul into the hands of Her Son and God.

*(Continued Next Week)*