

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 31, 2014

12TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Aug. 31 12th 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

Sun., Sep. 7 13th Sunday of Pentecost.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 90–92

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Feasts: Next Feast Day is the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on Thu., Sept. 11. That day is a Strict Fast day. It is also customary to not eat food that comes as a head (like lettuce), to not use a plate or knives.

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.

Congratulations & God Bless! To Greg & Kathy Dolhy, who are being Crowned in Marriage today. Many years!

PARISH STUFF

The Altar Society meets next Sunday, Sept 7.

The Men's Club meets next Sunday, Sept. 7.

PIROHISALES. As mentioned last week at the Liturgy, today 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 a few 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. How many people are needed?
 - a. *Preparation Day:* Need about 6 to 7 people:
 - i. 4 to peel & dice potatoes. These 4 and the cheese-grater usually make the potato-filling balls.
 - ii. 1 to grate cheese.

iii. 1 to boil the potatoes. This person then mashes the potatoes.

b. *Pinching day*: Need at least 12 people:

i. Dough-making: 1 person

ii. Rolling and cutting dough: 2 people

iii. Pinchers: at least 5 people, maximum 10 people. The more pinchers there are, the faster the work goes.

iv. Boil the pirohi: 1 to 2 people

v. Pack pirohi: 1 to 2 person

vi. Gopher/Runner/Dishwasher: 1 person

3. 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 24, 2014

\$ 687.00	General Collection
\$ 72.00	7-day Candles
\$ 32.00	Holy Days
\$ 102.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 17.00	Tapers
\$ 910.00	Total Collection

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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/>.

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.

Then began a joyous angelic song. Accompanying the pure soul of the God-betrothed and with reverent awe for the Queen of Heaven, the angels exclaimed: "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee, blessed art Thou among women! For lo, the Queen, God's Maiden comes, lift up the gates, and with the Ever-Existing One, take up the Mother of Light; for through Her salvation has come to all the human race. It is impossible to gaze upon Her, and it is impossible to render Her due honor" (Stikherion on "Lord, I Have Cried"). The Heavenly gates were raised, and meeting the soul of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Cherubim and the Seraphim glorified Her with joy.

The face of the Mother of God was radiant with the glory of Divine virginity, and from Her body there came a sweet fragrance.

Miraculous was the life of the All-Pure Virgin, and wondrous was Her Repose, as Holy Church sings: “In Thee, O Queen, the God of all hath given thee as thy portion the things that are above nature. Just as in the Birth-Giving He did preserve Thine virginity, so also in the grave He did preserve Thy body from decay” (Canon 1, Ode 6, Troparion 1).

Kissing the all-pure body with reverence and in awe, the Disciples in turn were blessed by it and filled with grace and spiritual joy. Through the great glorification of the Most Holy Theotokos, the almighty power of God healed the sick, who with faith and love touched the holy bed.

Bewailing their separation from the Mother of God, the Apostles prepared to bury Her all-pure body. The holy Apostles Peter, Paul, James and others of the Twelve Apostles carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders, and upon it lay the body of the Ever-Virgin Mary. St John the Theologian went at the head with the resplendent palm-branch from Paradise. The other saints and a multitude of the faithful accompanied the funeral bier with candles and censers, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane.

With the start of the procession there suddenly appeared over the all-pure body of the Mother of God and all those accompanying Her a resplendent circular cloud, like a crown. There was heard the singing of the Heavenly Powers, glorifying the Mother of God, which echoed that of the worldly voices. This circle of Heavenly singers and radiance accompanied the procession to the very place of burial.

Unbelieving inhabitants of Jerusalem, taken aback by the extraordinarily grand funeral procession and vexed at the honor accorded the Mother of Jesus, complained of this to the High Priest and scribes. Burning with envy and vengefulness toward everything that reminded them of Christ, they sent out their own servants to disrupt the procession and to set the body of the Mother of God afire.

An angry crowd and soldiers set off against the Christians, but the circular cloud accompanying the procession descended and surrounded them like a wall. The pursuers heard the footsteps and the singing,

but could not see any of those accompanying the procession. Indeed, many of them were struck blind.

The Jewish priest Athonios, out of spite and hatred for the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth, wanted to topple the funeral bier on which lay the body of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, but an angel of God invisibly cut off his hands, which had touched the bier. Seeing such a wonder, Athonios repented and with faith confessed the majesty of the Mother of God. He received healing and joined the crowd accompanying the body of the Mother of God, and he became a zealous follower of Christ.

When the procession reached the Garden of Gethsemane, then amidst the weeping and the wailing began the last kiss to the all-pure body. Only towards evening were the Apostles able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.

On the evening of the same day, when the Apostles had gathered at a house to strengthen themselves with food, the Mother of God appeared to them and said: “Rejoice! I am with you all the days of your lives.” This so gladdened the Apostles and everyone with them, that they took a portion of the bread, set aside at the meal in memory of the Savior (“the Lord’s Portion”), and they exclaimed: “Most Holy Theotokos, save us”. (This marks the beginning of the rite of offering up the “Panagia” (“All-Holy”), a portion of bread in honor of the Mother of God, which is done at monasteries to the present day).

The sash of the Mother of God, and Her holy garb, preserved with reverence and distributed over the face of the earth in pieces, have worked miracles both in the past and at present. Her numerous icons

everywhere pour forth signs and healings, and Her holy body, taken up to Heaven, bears witness to our own future life there. Her body was not left to the vicissitudes of the transitory world, but was incomparably exalted by its glorious ascent to Heaven.

The Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos is celebrated with special solemnity at Gethsemane, the place of Her burial. Nowhere else is there such sorrow of heart at the separation from the Mother of God, and nowhere else such joy, because of Her intercession for the world.

The holy city of Jerusalem is separated from the Mount of Olives by the valley of Kedron on Josaphat. At the foot of the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane, where olive trees bear fruit even now.

The holy Ancestor-of-God Joachim had himself reposed at 80 years of age, several years after the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (November 21). St Anna, having been left a widow, moved from Nazareth to Jerusalem, and lived near the Temple. At Jerusalem she bought two pieces of property: the first at the gates of Gethsemane, and the second in the valley of Josaphat. At the second locale she built a tomb for the members of her family, and where also she herself was buried with Joachim. It was there in the Garden of Gethsemane that the Savior often prayed with His disciples.

The most-pure body of the Mother of God was buried in the family tomb. Christians honored the sepulchre of the Mother of God, and they built a church on this spot. Within the church was preserved the precious funeral cloth, which covered Her all-pure and fragrant body.

The holy Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem (420-458) testified before the emperor Marcian (450-457) as to the authenticity of the tradition about the miraculous ascent of the Mother of God to Heaven, and he sent to the empress, St Pulcheria (September 10), the grave wrappings of the Mother of God from Her tomb. St Pulcheria then placed these grave-wrappings within the Blachernae church.

Accounts have been preserved, that at the end of the seventh century a church had been built atop the underground church of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, and that from its high bell-tower could be seen the dome of the Church of the Resurrection of the Lord. Traces of this church are no

longer to be seen. And in the ninth century near the subterranean Gethsemane church a monastery was built, in which more than 30 monks struggled.

Great destruction was done the Church in the year 1009 by the despoiler of the holy places, Hakim. Radical changes, the traces of which remain at present, also took place under the crusaders in the year 1130. During the eleventh to twelfth centuries the piece of excavated stone, at which the Savior had prayed on the night of His betrayal disappeared from Jerusalem. This piece of stone had been in the Gethsemane basilica from the sixth century.

But in spite of the destruction and the changes, the overall original cruciform (cross-shaped) plan of the church has been preserved. At the entrance to the church along the sides of the iron gates stand four marble columns. To enter the church, it is necessary to go down a stairway of 48 steps. At the 23rd step on the right side is a chapel in honor of the holy Ancestors-of-God Joachim and Anna together with their graves, and on the left side opposite, the chapel of St Joseph the Betrothed with his grave. The right chapel belongs to the Orthodox Church, and the left to the Armenian Church (since 1814).

The church of the Dormition of the Theotokos has the following dimensions: in length it is 48 arshin, and in breadth 8 arshin [1 arshin = 28 inches]. At an earlier time the church had also windows beside the doors. The whole temple was adorned with a multitude of lampadas and offerings. Two small entrances lead into the burial-chamber of the Mother of God. One enters through the western doors, and exits at the northern doors. The burial-chamber of the All-Pure Virgin Mary is veiled with precious curtains. The burial place was hewn out of stone in the manner of the ancient Jewish graves and is very similar to the Sepulchre of the Lord. Beyond the burial-chamber is the altar of the church, in which Divine Liturgy is celebrated each day in the Greek language.

The olive woods on the eastern and northern sides of the temple was acquired from the Turks by the Orthodox during the seventh and eighth centuries. The Catholics acquired the olive woods on the east and south sides in 1803, and the Armenians on the west side in 1821. (*Conclusion Next Week*)