

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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September 21, 2014

15TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS

PARISH CALENDAR

SUN., SEP. 21 BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS.
Sunday before the Exaltation of the
Holy Cross. 15th Sunday of Pentecost.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Parish Board meets

Wed., Sep. 24 St. Euphrosynus the Cook

8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Sep. 25 Last day of Feast of the Birth of Holy
Mary Theotokos. Bp. Autonomous.

7:30 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Sep. 26 Dedication of the Church of the
Resurrection in Jerusalem.

Pirohi Sale

SAT., SEP. 27 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY, LIFE-
GIVING CROSS.

9:00 AM Enthronement of the Holy & Life-
giving Cross. Divine Liturgy

Strict Fast today

Sun., Sep. 28 16th Sunday of Pentecost. Sunday after
the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
Great-martyr Nicetas.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

THE BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS is today.

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS is Saturday,
September 27. This day is a day of *Strict Fast*.

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. John Polanichka. 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.

Altar Vigil Lights: Memory of Eugene Danchak, Jr by
Susan Danchak.

Eternal Light: Memory of Margaret Farkaly &
Richard Farkaly by Bill & Bev Thomas

Panachida: Memory of Eugene Danchak, Jr by
Susan Danchak.

PARISH STUFF

Parish Board meets today.

OCF Collection: 2nd Collection Sunday, Oct 5. The OCF, the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, is a nationwide official function of all of the Orthodox Churches in America. It sets up official student organizations in *colleges and universities* so that Orthodox students can get together regularly to maintain and grow in their faith.

We have been asked by the diocese to take up a collection to help this important effort by the Church to keep our kids in the faith. So, Sunday, Oct. 5, we will take a 2nd collection to contribute to this effort. Please be generous.

PIROHI SALE UPDATE: This Week the Schedule is:

Pirohi Prep, Wednesday, 9/24, starting at 8 AM.
Pirohi Making, Thursday, 9/25, starting at 7:30 AM.

Evening Prep Crew? There is still time to put this together before this week's sale. If anyone else is willing to help out on Wednesday evening to do the Prep work, please let me know *today*. I will still have time to get the word out so that the morning crew doesn't have to come in. Else, we are still planning the usual Wednesday morning Prep unless announced otherwise.

The next Pirohi Sale after this one will be Oct. 8,9,10.

Study Group: There is interest in restarting this Adult gathering. So, we will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The fall schedule (so far) will be: Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12. We will meet from 6 PM – 7:30 PM in the hall. Everyone is welcome. Like last year, I am not planning a series of talks, so anyone is welcome to come any time and should be able to fit right in, even if you missed a session or two.

Church School: I hope to talk with the teachers soon about this.

DDD Dinner Info as promised! This year's DDD Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 9, at St. George's Center, Taylor. Cocktails will begin at 1:30 p.m. with dinner beginning at 2:30 p.m. Thank you for your support of the DDD!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, September 14, 2014

\$ 594.00	General Collection
\$ 9.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 81.00	7-day Candles
\$ 27.00	Holy Days
\$ 1015.00	Pirohi
\$ 3.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 16.00	Tapers
\$ 25.00	Heat Offering
\$ 1745.00	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. Date remaining: Sunday-September 21. Time: 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.

Ukrainian Food Festival: St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Scranton

Sunday, September 21, 2014 - 11:00am to 5:00pm

Come and enjoy delicious Ukrainian specialties: holubchy, pyrohy, kobasa, kapusta and more.

Father Nestor Kowal and parishioners extend a warm welcome.

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!

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, Broadway & 4th Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18505 will be holding a "ETHNIC FOOD FEST" on October 4th, 2014 at the Church Hall from Noon until supplies last. Join us for Homemade Pirohi, haluski, kielbasi, holupki, potato pancakes, home made desserts and a basket raffle.

OCTOBERFEST at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Center International Dinner! 220 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa., Thurs. Oct. 9, 2014. There are 2 seatings: 5:30 and 6:30 pm and only \$20.00 per person. The menu will start with a Baby Spinach Salad with Bacon Dressing, the Entrée will be Sauerbraten Beef served with Red Cabbage and Hot German Potato Salad and Fresh Baked Pumpernickel Bread. Dessert will be a Fresh Baked Apple Streudel. Please call with your reservations at 570-344-8980 on or before October 6.

Annual Fall Rummage Sale sponsored by St. Thomas More Parish, at 1625 N. Main Ave. North Scranton. Gently used clothing, books, household items, children's toys and games, and other goods will be accepted for donation on Sundays or office hours during the week. Sale will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 8 a. m. to 2 p.m. A bake sale will be included. For more information please call 570-343-0634, Parking is available.

THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

September 14/27

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy

places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They

demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem.

During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on

September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".