

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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September 28, 2014

16TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY, LIFE-GIVING CROSS

PARISH CALENDAR

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

Special Men's Club meeting

Wed., Sep. Oct. 1 Holy Bishop Eumenius

6:00 – 7:30 PM Adult Study Group

Sun., Oct. 5 17th Sunday of Pentecost. 1st Sunday of Luke. Prophet Jonah.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 8 pp. 102–104

2nd Collection to support the OCF (College Fellowship organization)

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Next feast coming up will be the Protection of Holy Mary Theotokos on Oct. 14.

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.

Heather Harris. 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.

PARISH STUFF

Men's Club: There will be a short meeting of the Men's Club today after Divine Liturgy.

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.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION UNTIL OCT. 31: As you know, we have taken up collections of non-perishable food to support the local Food Bank, which is known as the Bread Basket of NEPA. All food goes to help out local folks in need.

While we have been doing this at holiday times, most other churches and organizations do their collections at the same time. So, the odd times, like now, are when the Food Bank is running desperately low on stock. We are now accepting donations of non-perishable food items to help support our local Food Bank. This collection ends on October 31. Please be generous to your neighbors in the valley.

Note: Please do not donate items which are out of date. Whether or not they may be still edible does not matter. Any item out of date is automatically thrown away because of the possible issues with the item.

PIROHI SALE UPDATE: We sold pirohi this past Friday. The next sale is scheduled on Friday, October 10. Good-sized groups this past week made the work easy and fast. Thanks again!

Study Group: Begins this 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: We will be getting back to you about specific dates.

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 21, 2014**

\$ 562.20	General Collection
\$ 69.00	7-day Candles
\$ 141.00	Holy Days
\$ 90.00	Church dues
\$ 195.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 11.00	Tapers
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 1075.20	Total Collection

DDD Donor: John Polanichka \$100.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Greek Food Festival at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 32 East Ross St., Wilkes-Barre. *Thurs., Oct. 2 – Sat., Oct. 4.* 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM ever day. Eat in, take out, and pre-order by phone or online. There is a Poster in the Hall with more info. Or, call 570-823-4805 or go online at <http://greekfoodfestival.webs.com>. Everyone welcome!

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 Pumpnickel 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.

JR. ACRY WEEKEND ENCOUNTER AT CAMP NAZARETH! The National Jr. ACRY will once again be hosting its Weekend Encounter at Camp Nazareth over Veteran's Day Weekend. The event will be held from November 7 - 9, 2014, and is open to youth ages 8 - 18. *You do not have to be a member of the Jr. ACRY to attend.*

The weekend's activities will include time for prayer, recreating, spiritual learning, sports, and more. Each year, the National Jr. ACRY plans a weekend that will condense the highlights of a week of camp down into one weekend, and we hope that you will consider spending your Veteran's Day Weekend with us at Camp Nazareth.

Due to the Jr. ACRY offsetting the cost of the weekend, each camper will only have to pay \$70 for the weekend. Any adult who is bringing campers to the event may stay for the weekend at a cost of \$80.

During the weekend, you can catch up with old friends, make new friends, and have fun while living the Faith

If your child has never been to camp before, this is a wonderful opportunity for them to try it out! Although they won't be able to swim in the pool, they will be introduced to our beautiful diocesan camp, and will hopefully want to come back for a full week next summer!

All campers must have signed parental consent forms to attend the event. (The "chaperone" portion does not need filled out as we will have counselors in each cabin). Mail the completed forms as well as a check made out to the National Jr. ACRY to:

Rachel Pribish, 668 S. Broad St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202

For further information or questions, please contact Rachel at rprib89@yahoo.com (with Jr. ACRY Encounter in the subject line) or by phone at 908.247.2269. The deadline to register for the event is October 29th.

There are forms in the hall for your convenience.

COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION (HOLY SEPULCHRE) AT JERUSALEM

September 13/26 (The Eve of the Exaltation of the
Holy Cross)

The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem celebrates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by St Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen.

After the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as even the Savior foretold (Mt.13:1-2).

Later on the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name.

He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. Before the statues they offered sacrifice to demons and performed pagan rites, accompanied by wanton acts.

In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born of the All-Pure Virgin, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of St Constantine the Great (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, in order to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of foul pagan cults.

The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem with a large quantity of gold, and St Constantine the Great wrote a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323), requesting him to assist her in every possible way with her task of the renewing the Christian holy places.

After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and re-consecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the

temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulchre of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails.

In order to determine upon which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about.

The holy empress quickly began the construction of a large church which enclosed within its walls Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion of the Savior, and the Sepulchre of the Lord, located near each other. The holy Apostle and Evangelist John wrote about this: "Now in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day, for the tomb was nearby" (John 19:41-42). The Church of the Resurrection was ten years in building, and the holy empress Helen did not survive to see its completion. She returned to Constantinople, and reposed in the year 327. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress built churches in Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane and in many other places connected with the life of the Savior and events in the New Testament.

The construction of the church of the Resurrection, called "Martyrion" in memory of the sufferings of the Savior, was completed in the same year as the Council of Tyre, and in the thirtieth year of the reign of St Constantine the Great. Therefore, at the assembly of September 13, 335, the consecration of the temple was particularly solemn. Hierarchs of Christian Churches in many lands: Bythnia, Thrace, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Syria, Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt, participated in the consecration of the church. The bishops who participated in the Council of Tyre, and many others, went to the consecration in Jerusalem. On this day all the city of Jerusalem was consecrated. The Fathers of the Church established September 13 as the commemoration of this remarkable event.



Church of the Holy Resurrection, Jerusalem

PROPHET JONAH

September 22/October 5

The Holy Prophet Jonah lived in the eighth century before the birth of Christ and was a successor of the Prophet Elisha. The Book of the Prophet Jonah contains prophecies about the judgments on the Israelite nation, the sufferings of the Savior, the downfall of Jerusalem, and the end of the world. Besides the prophecies, the Book of Jonah relates how he was sent to the Ninevites to preach repentance (Jon. 3: 3-10).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, addressing the Scribes and the Pharisees who demanded a sign from Him, said that no sign would be given except for the sign of the Prophet Jonah, "As Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so also shall the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights (Mt. 12: 40). From these words the Lord shows clearly the symbolic meaning of the Book of the Prophet Jonah in relation to Christ's death on the Cross, descent into Hell, and the Resurrection.

Reproaching the lack of penitence and recalcitrance of the Jews, the Lord said, "The Ninevites shall rise in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and one greater than Jonah is here" (Mt. 12: 41).