

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 9.1

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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September 7, 2014

13TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Sep. 7 13th Sunday of Pentecost. Apostle Bartholomew. Apostle. Titus.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 90–92
Altar Society meets
Men's Club meets

Tue., Sep. 8 Monk Pimen

8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Wed., Sep. 9 Monk Moses the Ethiopian

7:30 AM *Pirohi Making*

THU., SEP. 11 BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

We especially remember those who died in the attacks on the USA on 9/11/2001

Strict Fast today

Sun., Sep. 14 14th Sunday of Pentecost.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 93–95.
Parish Board meets

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST is this 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 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: Health of Julie Worobey by Bonk and Pugh families.

PARISH STUFF

The Altar Society meets today.

The Men's Club meets today.

1ST PIROHI SALE THIS FRIDAY. *There is a schedule change for this week (of course).* With the Holy Day on Thursday, we have to shift the Prep and Making days ahead one day – see Calendar. This will only be for this first sale. Next sale, we will be working on Wednesday and Thursday as we did in the past.

Even if you didn't commit yet, you can always stop by for a while to help out.

Also, although we were not able to put together an Evening Prep Crew this time, it can still happen for the next sales. I have 3 who are willing to do the evening. If we can get 3 or 4 more, we can have one crew doing the prep and one doing the making. That would really help spread the load a lot. Let Fr. Nik know if you are willing to help out this way.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, August 31, 2014

\$ 270.00	General Collection
\$ 96.00	7-day Candles
\$ 38.00	Holy Days
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 15.00	Altar Vigils
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 14.00	Tapers
\$ 530.00	Total Collection

DDD 2014! Donors: Edward Bonk, Jr. \$100.
Stephanie Bonk \$100.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave, Scranton is having a CRAFT SHOW Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the Center from 10am to 3pm. Admission is \$1.00. There will be many different hand crafts at the show, so come out and find a perfect gift or crafted item. There will also be food and a raffle.

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/>.

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.

On August 12, at Little Gethsemane, at the second hour of the night, the head of the Gethsemane church celebrates Divine Liturgy. With the end of Liturgy, at the fourth hour of the morning, he serves a short Molieben before the resplendent burial shroud, lifts it in his hands and solemnly carries it beyond the church to Gethsemane proper where the holy sepulchre of the Mother of God is situated. All the members of the Russian Spiritual Mission in Jerusalem, with the head of the Mission presiding, participate each year in the

procession (called the “Litania”) with the holy burial shroud of the Mother of God..

The rite of the Burial of the Mother of God at Gethsemane begins customarily on the morning of August 14. A multitude of people with hierarchs and clergy at the head set off from the Jerusalem Patriarchate (nearby the Church of the Resurrection of Christ) in sorrowful procession. Along the narrow alley-ways of the Holy City the funeral procession makes its way to Gethsemane. Toward the front of the procession an icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos is carried. Along the way, pilgrims meet the icon, kissing the image of the All-Pure Virgin Mary and lift children of various ages to the icon. After the clergy, in two rows walk the black-robed monks and nuns of the Holy City: Greeks, Roumanians, Arabs, Russians. The procession, going along for about two hours, concludes with Lamentations at the Gethsemane church. In front the altar, beyond the burial chamber of the Mother of God, is a raised-up spot, upon which rests the burial shroud of the Most Holy Mother of God among fragrant flowers and myrtle, with precious coverings.

“O marvelous wonder! The Fount of Life is placed in the grave, and the grave doth become the ladder to Heaven...” Here at the grave of the All-Pure Virgin, these words strike deep with their original sense and grief is dispelled by joy: “Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee, granting the world, through Thee, great mercy!”

Numerous pilgrims, having kissed the icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, following an ancient custom, then stoop down and go beneath it.

On the day of the Leave-taking of the feast (August 23), another solemn procession is made. On the return path, the holy burial shroud is carried by clergy led by the Archimandrite of Gethsemane.

There is an article in the “Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate”, 1979, No. 3 regarding the rite of the litany and Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God in the Holy Land.

Today flowers are blessed in church, and people keep them in their homes. During times of family strife or illness, the flower petals are placed in the censer with the incense, and the whole house is censured. See the Prayer at the Sanctification of any Fragrant Herbage.

THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST JOHN

August 29/September 11

from www.oca.org

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: “Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip.” Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where

Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated (February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Lest we forget. . .

The September 11 attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks launched by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda upon the United States in New York City and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. The attacks killed almost 3,000 people and caused at least \$10 billion in property and infrastructure damage.

Four passenger airliners were hijacked by 19 al-Qaeda terrorists so they could be flown into buildings in suicide attacks. Two of those planes,

American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, were crashed into the North and South towers, respectively, of the World Trade Center complex in New York City. Within two hours, both towers collapsed with debris and the resulting fires causing partial or complete collapse of all other buildings in the WTC complex, as well as significant damage to ten other large surrounding structures. A third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, was crashed into the Pentagon (the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense), leading to a partial collapse in its western side. The fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, was targeted at Washington, D.C., but crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after its passengers tried to overcome the hijackers. In total, almost 3,000 people died in the attacks, including the 227 civilians and 19 hijackers aboard the four planes. It also was the deadliest incident for firefighters and for law enforcement officers in the history of the United States, with 343 and 72 killed respectively.

Suspicion quickly fell on al-Qaeda. Although the group's leader, Osama bin Laden, initially denied any involvement, in 2004, he claimed responsibility for the attacks. Al-Qaeda and bin Laden cited U.S. support of Israel, the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, and sanctions against Iraq as motives for the attacks. The United States responded to the attacks by launching the War on Terror and invading Afghanistan to depose the Taliban, which had harbored al-Qaeda. Many countries strengthened their anti-terrorism legislation and expanded law enforcement powers. Having evaded capture for years, bin Laden was located and killed by U.S. forces in May 2011.

The destruction of the Twin Towers and other properties caused serious damage to the economy of Lower Manhattan and had a significant effect on global markets, closing Wall Street until September 17 and the civilian airspace in the U.S. and Canada until September 13. Many closings, evacuations, and cancellations followed the attack, either out of fear of further attacks or respect for the tragedy. Cleanup of the World Trade Center site was completed in May 2002, and the Pentagon was repaired within a year. Numerous memorials have been constructed to commemorate this event.

Eternal memory for all those who died because of the events on that terrible day!