

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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November 16, 2014

23RD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST. 7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 16 23rd Sunday of Pentecost. 7th Sunday of Luke. Martyrs Acepshimas et al.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 6 pp. 96–98.

Church School Meets

Parish Board Meets

Wed., Nov. 19 Archbishop Paul of Constantinople

7:30 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Nov. 20 33 Martyrs of Melitene.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

FRI., NOV. 21 SYNAXIS OF HOLY MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL AND ALL THE BODILESS POWERS OF HEAVEN.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Special Commemoration: Stephen Roberts

10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun., Nov. 23 24th Sunday of Pentecost. 8th Sunday of Luke. Great-martyr Orestes.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 7 pp. 99–101.

New Kitchen 'Mini-Open House' – after Divine Liturgy as soon as Fr. Nik can get over to the rectory.

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

The Feast of St. Michael and all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven is celebrated this Fri., Nov. 21. Divine

Liturgy will be at 9:00 AM.

The next Feast Day will be THE ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE, on Thu., Dec. 4. Divine Liturgy will be at 9 AM.

Filipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent) begins on Friday, Nov. 15/28 and goes until Christmas Eve, Dec. 24/Jan. 6. It is called Philip's Fast because it begins the day after the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle on Nov. 14/27.

The **Traditional Fast** requires fasting from meat, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The fasting rules permit fish, and/or wine and oil on certain feast days that occur during the course of the fast: Evangelist Matthew (Nov. 16/29), Apostle Andrew (Nov. 30/Dec. 13), Great-martyr Barbara (Dec. 4/17), St. Nicholas (Dec. 6/19), St. Spiridon and St. Herman (Dec. 12/25), St. Ignatius (Dec. 20/Jan. 2), etc. There is no fast on the Feast of the Entrance (Nov. 21/Dec. 4). The Nativity Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast.

As always, persons who are ill, the very young or elderly, and pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt from fasting. Each individual is expected to confer with their confessor regarding any exemptions from the fasting rules, but should never place themselves in physical danger.

There has been some ambiguity about the restriction of fish, whether it means the allowance of invertebrate fish or all fish. Often, even on days when fish is not allowed, shellfish may be consumed. More detailed guidelines vary by jurisdiction, but the rules strictly state that from the December 20 to December 24 (inclusively), no fish may be eaten.

Christmas Eve is a DAY OF STRICT FAST in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord – this is why it is called the “Paramony,” a word which means “Preparation. On this day solid food should be eaten until the first star is seen in the evening sky (or at the very least, until after the Vespers Divine Liturgy that day). That’s why the *Vilija* or *Holy Supper* traditionally begins when the first star is seen.

The MINIMUM Diocesan Rule is no meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

This Year, Filipovka begins on the day after Thanksgiving Day. In the past, Metropolitan Nicholas ‘unofficially officially’ permitted dispensation from the Fast on Thanksgiving Day (if necessary) and the next day, Friday. Until I receive new direction from Bishop Gregory, I am assuming that this remains the policy of the diocese.

No dispensation has been granted from fasting on Dec. 24, 25, 31, or Jan. 1 (civil calendar).

Confessions: All are reminded that fasting from food goes hand-in-hand with fasting from sin. This is why the traditional directive to receive the Holy Mystery of Confession is given during the Christmas Fast period. During the Christmas Fast, Confessions are scheduled for Sunday morning 8:45 – 9:15.

Almsgiving: Also, almsgiving (giving to the poor and needy) is the flip side of the coin of fasting. Our hands are supposed to move away from stuffing our own faces in order to give out to others who are in need.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Living: Matt & Lori Algar. 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. Dan & Teri Ludwig. 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.

Eternal Light: Memory of Marion Pucher by Andrew & Steve Barnett.

PARISH STUFF

NEW COORDINATORS FOR SUNDAY SOCIAL HOUR!

I am pleased to announce that Sue Danchak and Nancy Barnett have stepped up and volunteered to take over the Sunday Social Hour. They begin their new ministry next Sunday, Nov. 23. May God bless them as they embark on this ministry to the parish.

Social Hour Donations: It costs about \$40 per Sunday to offer coffee, etc., to all of you after Divine Liturgy. The average collection for Social Hour is about \$13 per Sunday – *less than 1/3 of the cost*. The rest of the cost will have to be provided by the parish. We ask, therefore, that everyone consider this fact and make an appropriate donation at Social Hour.

Commemorative Sponsors of Social Hour: Alternatively, anyone is welcome to sponsor the Social Hour for any given Sunday as, for instance, in memory of a loved one. The Sponsorship is \$40. If you wish to sponsor a specific Sunday, please be sure to write it in the Commemorations Binder in the Hall (there is now a separate tab for that) so that it can be listed with the other commemorations in the bulletin. On a Sponsored Sunday, there will be no donation basket for Social Hour.

NEXT PIROHI SALE IS THIS FRI., NOV. 21. Work Days are as scheduled in the Parish Calendar. Thanks to all who help with this important project!

Church School: Church School meets today.

Parish Board meets today.

Altar Society's next meeting will be Sun., Dec. 7.

Christmas Church Cleaning. Please keep in mind that we will need to clean the church for Christmas. Plans are being formulated and we'll let everyone know when, etc. We will need help in this endeavor.

ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET. Scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14. ***DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE AT 10:30 AM ON THAT DAY.*** More info as soon as we have some.

Christmas Cookie Sale, sponsored by the Altar Society, will be Friday December 19th along with the Pirohi sale. Please, anyone who can bake cookies, breads, nut/poppy rolls, etc. please contact Carol Pugh at 570-489-2321, toots638@comcast.net.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, November 9

\$ 313.47	General Collection
\$ 5.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 74.00	7-day Candles
\$ 1418.00	Pirohi
\$ 20.00	Heat Offering
\$ 11.00	Tapers
\$ 1841.47	Total Collection

38TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DINNER PROGRAM: this program has been providing Food Baskets for Thanksgiving for 28 years, and a festive sit-down dinner for 38 years. If you would like to get involved in this worthwhile community project, you can

- 1) Volunteer to help preparing and serving the dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 25.
- 2) Volunteer to help making up the baskets on Wednesday, Nov. 26.
- 3) Donate toward a basket. Each costs \$25; you could donate any amount you wish.

For further information, see

- 1) The letter posted on the hall bulletin board and emailed to parishioners.
- 2) Ask Nick & Maryann Polanichka

Renovation and Repair Work update: the *Kitchen renovation is done!*

Next Sunday, November 23, everyone is invited to come to the rectory and see the new kitchen as soon as Fr. Nik can get over there. I'll be there to answer any questions about the work.

Renovation Fund: Donations to this fund to help defray the expenses of the current work, or of future work (there is a lot more to be done to the rectory) are welcome.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Ekumen Chorale Will Present a Concert at St. Mary's Church, 310 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. on Sunday, November 16th at 3:00pm in the Church. The Ekumen Chorale is well known for the authenticity of its eastern European sound, interpretations sung without accompaniment in the manner and languages of the composers. Ekumen presents these challenging masterworks in the tri-state area availing new audiences of the depth and power of this huge repository of most profound and sublime writings. All performances are open to the public and there is no cost. We would accept a free-will offering from those in attendance.

Home Made Bake Sale in time for Thanksgiving Day! Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa is sponsoring a "Home-made" Bake Sale by the Ladies and Parishioners of the Church. It will be held on Sat., Nov. 22, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Held at the School Gym, 133 River Street, Olyphant, Pa, (free parking across the street) Call Dorothy at 570-489-2476, Marlene at 570-876-1008, or Cheryl 570-489-4348 for more information. www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com and www.parishesonline.com/sscyrilmethodiusblakely

St Michael's Orthodox Church, 540 N Main Ave, Scranton, PA 18504, is holding a *Holubki Dinner* on Sunday, Nov.23 starting at 12 noon until.... The cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. For reservations call the Parish hall at 570-961-1795 and leave a message. All are welcome!

Bus Trip to New York City - Sunday, December 7, 2014. A Christmas Season bus trip to New York City is set for Sunday, December 7th to include lunch in the Ukrainian Village, visiting the Ukrainian Museum's

annual Christmas Bazaar, admiring the spectacular Christmas decorations and shopping in midtown Manhattan, or for a day on your own. Donation is \$38.00 per person with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Children's Religious Education program of St. Vladimir parish. For details and reservations contact Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275.

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & THE BODILESS POWERS OF HEAVEN

November 8/21
from www.oca.org

All the Ranks of the Heavenly Powers are called angels, although each has its own name and position by virtue of their service. The Lord reveals His will to the highest ranks of the angels, and they in turn inform the others.

Over all the Nine Ranks, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means "who is like unto God"), the faithful servitor of God, as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God. Michael summoned the ranks of angels and cried out, "Let us attend! Let us stand aright before our Creator and do not consider doing what is displeasing unto God!"

According to Church Tradition, and in the church services to the Archangel Michael, he participated in many other Old Testament events:

- During the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt he went before them in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Through him the power of the Lord was made manifest, annihilating the Egyptians and Pharaoh who were in pursuit of the Israelites. The Archangel Michael defended Israel in all its misfortunes.
- He appeared to Joshua Son of Navi and revealed the will of the Lord at the taking of Jericho (Josh 5:13-16). The power of the great Chief Commander of God was manifest in the annihilation of the 185 thousand soldiers of the Assyrian emperor Sennacherib (4/2 Kings 19:35); also in the smiting of the impious leader Heliodorus (2 Macc. 3: 24-26); and in the protection of the Three Holy Youths: Ananias, Azarias and Misail, thrown into the fiery furnace for their refusal to worship an idol (Dan 3:22-25).

- Through the will of God, the Chief Commander Michael transported the Prophet Habbakuk (December 2) from Judea to Babylon, to give food to Daniel in the lions' den (Dan. 14:33-37).

- Archangel Michael disputed with the devil over the body of the holy Prophet Moses (Jude 1:9).

The holy Archangel Michael showed his power when he miraculously saved a young man, cast into the sea by robbers with a stone about his neck on the shores of Mt Athos. This story is found in the Athonite Paterikon, and in the Life of St Neophytus of Docheiariou (November 9).

In old Kiev at the time of the accepting of Christianity, a cathedral of the Archangel was built, and a monastery also was named for him. Archangel cathedrals are found at Smolensk, Nizhni Novgorod, Staritsa, at Great Ustiug (beginning of the thirteenth century), and a cathedral at Sviyazhsk. In Rus there was not a city, where there was not a church or chapel dedicated to the Archangel Michael.

We invoke St Michael for protection from invasion by enemies and from civil war, and for the defeat of adversaries on the field of battle. He conquers all spiritual enemies.

The Other Archangels: Holy Scripture and Tradition give us the names of the Archangels:

- Gabriel: strength (power) of God, herald and servitor of Divine omnipotence (Dan 8:16, Luke 1:26). He announces the mysteries of God.
- Raphael: the healing of God, the curer of human infirmities (Tobit 3:16, 12:15)
- Uriel: the fire or light of God, enlightener (3 Ezdras 5:20). We pray for him to enlighten those with darkened minds.
- Selaphiel: the prayer of God, impelling to prayer (3 Ezdras 5:16). He prays to God for mankind.
- Jehudiel: the glorifying of God, encouraging exertion for the glory of the Lord and interceding for the reward of efforts.
- Barachiel: distributor of the blessings of God for good deeds, entreats the mercy of God for people.
- Jeremiel: the raising up to God (3 Ezdras 4:36)