

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 11.4 & 11.5

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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November 23, 2014

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST. 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE.

November 30, 2014

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST. 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE.

*Special Two Week Edition*

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 23 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. 8<sup>th</sup> 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.*

*Altar Vestments Display in the Hall.*

Thu., Nov. 27 Apostle Philip. Bishop Gregory Palamas.

*THANKSGIVING DAY*

Fri., Nov. 28 Martyrs Gurias, et al.

*CHRISTMAS FAST (FILIPOVKA) BEGINS.*

Sun., Nov. 30 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Bishop Gregory the Wonderworker of Newcaesarea.

9:30 AM Deacon's Service with distribution of the Holy Eucharist - Fr. Deacon Marc Wisnosky. Tone 8. 102–104.

*Church School Meets*

Tue., Dec. 2 Prophet Obadiah

7:30 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Wed., Dec. 3 Pre-Feast of the Entrance of Holy Mary Theotokos. Monk Gregory.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

THU., DEC. 4 ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Special Commemoration: Julia Soares.

Fri., Dec. 5 Apostle Philemon. Martyr Cecelia.

10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sat., Dec. 6 Bps. Amphilochius & Gregory.

9:00 AM *Christmas Church Cleaning.*

Sun., Dec. 7 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Within the Feast of the Entrance. Great-martyr Catherine.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.

*Altar Society Meets.*

## FEASTS . . . & FASTS

THE ENTRANCE OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE is celebrated Thu., Dec. 4. Divine Liturgy will be at 9 AM.

**Filipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent)** is from Fri., Nov. 28 civil calendar (Nov. 15 Julian) until Christmas Eve, January 6 civil (Dec. 24 Julian). 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 (November 16/29), Apostle Andrew (November 30/December 13), Great-martyr Barbara (December 4/17), St. Nicholas (December 6/19), St. Spiridon and St. Herman (December 12/25), St. Ignatius (December 20/January 2), etc. There is no fast on the Feast of the Entrance (November 21/December 4). The Nativity Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast.

As is always the case with Orthodox fasting rules, 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.

The Eve of Nativity (December 24) is a strict fast day, called Paramony (lit. "preparation"), on which no 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).

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

This Year, Filipovka begins on the day after

Thanksgiving Day. According to the 2014 ACRY Annual, p. 8., Bishop officially gives dispensation from the Fast on Thanksgiving Day (if necessary) and the next day, Friday.

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.

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

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.

**ONGOING FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT** to support the local Food Banks. 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. We will continue to collect food – cans, dry goods, etc. throughout this season and periodically take the collection up to the Food Bank. The last collection we took up was gratefully appreciated, as their shelves were virtually empty. Make this a part of your Christmas Lent and donate to the Food Bank! Bins are in the Hall by the Main Doors.

## 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 Steve Duricko - Orzolek family.

*Panachida:* 40 Day Commemoration of Steve Duricko by cousins Joe & Lorraine Kacaba

## PARISH STUFF

**‘Open Kitchen’ (Mini-Open-House?)** At the rectory today after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to stop by the kitchen to see it completely done as soon as I can get over there after Liturgy to answer any questions you may have.

**Renovation Fund:** As noted at the annual meeting, all donations to this fund over the past three or four years were used up when new windows were put in the rectory in November 2012. Anyone who would like to donate 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 and the church and the hall) are asked to see Nick Polanichka.

**Altar Vestments Display:** The refinished purple Altar Vestments are back. I have them on display in the hall, along with a set that has not been redone (the gold) and another done set of a different style (blue). All the members of the Altar Society (and everyone else, too), are welcome to peruse the display which should show how the sets are being redone to go from what we have had (much assembly required, with pins and thumb tacks) to more traditional and practical styles (no assembly required). If you have any questions, I’ll be in the rectory kitchen.

**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 today. 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 considers this fact and makes 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 (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.

**Commemorations Binder:** The book for signing up for commemorations for the Altar Vigils, Eternal Light, Panachidas and Social Hour is now in the back of the church just as you come in. We think it might be more convenient for folks who want to make such commemorations. Let us know if you like this new arrangement.

**2015 Church Calendars** are now available in the hall. Please make sure you pick yours up!

**Auditors Sought:** The parish was unable to elect auditors at the Annual Meeting because no one would accept the nomination. If you are willing to consider taking on this task, please see Fr. Nik or Jane Togher. Ordinarily there are 2 auditors selected to check the parish’s books every year.

**Fr. Nik Away** – I will be spending Thanksgiving with my family. I will be gone from late Tuesday, Nov. 25, until Monday morning, Dec. 1. Fr. Deacon Marc Wisnosky will again celebrate the Deacon’s Service with Holy Communion on Sunday, Nov. 30. There will be books available for the congregation to use for the service. Please welcome Fr. Dn. Marc and his family.

*In case of Emergency,* please call Fr. Mark Leasure at 570-562-1170. You can also leave a message on my cell phone.

**NEXT PIROHI SALE FRI., DEC. 5.** Thanks to all who continue to work so hard.

*Special Note: Schedule Change!* Because of the Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos on

Thursday, Dec. 4, the work days have been moved up one day: *Tuesday* will be the Prep Day and *Wednesday* will be the Pinching Day. Please see the Parish Calendar above.

**Extra Pirohi Making Week:** Because orders have been coming in so fast, we asked the folks who work Pirohi if they would be willing to have an extra session, and they agreed. So, we will be making Pirohi the week of Dec. 7 on the usual days:

*Wed., Dec. 10 7:30 AM Pirohi Prep*

*Thu., Dec. 11 8:00 AM Pirohi Pinching.*

We are only going to make the usual 2 bags. There will be no Sale on Friday of that week.

We will still be making Pirohi again the following week for the last Sale of the season. Thanks to all of you who have put in your time and effort to this fund raiser.

**Cemetery Bill 2014:** Most of you know that St. George's Church takes care of the entire cemetery, theirs and ours, doing maintenance, grass cutting, etc., throughout the year. Each year they then bill our parish for our share of the cost. Attached to this bulletin is a copy of this year's billing for your perusal.

**Church School:** Church School meets Sunday, November 30.

**Altar Society** meets Sunday, December 7.

**Christmas Church Cleaning Saturday, December 6 beginning at 9 AM.** Please keep in mind that we will need to clean the church for Christmas. We will need help in this endeavor. With enough people, we should be able to make this a morning project.

**ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET.** Scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14. ***DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE AT 10:30 AM ON THAT DAY.*** Our parishioners and friends will be receiving invitation letters soon. Meanwhile, the Banquet will be a Turkey Dinner with all the fixings. St. Nicholas will be making a special visit to us and the kids. Dinner tickets will be \$12/adult, \$5/child 12 years old and under, and free for children 4 and under. We need reservations ahead of time. Please see Nick Polanichka to pick up your tickets.

**Christmas Cookie Sale,** sponsored by the Altar Society, will be Friday December 19th along with the Pirohi sale. Please, anyone who can bake cookies,

bread, nut/poppy rolls, etc. please contact Carol Pugh at 570-489-2321, [toots638@comcast.net](mailto:toots638@comcast.net).

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH**

**Sunday, November 16**

\$ 699.00	General Collection
\$ 56.00	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
\$ 85.00	7-day Candles
\$ 35.00	Holy Days
\$ 50.00	Heat Offering
\$ 10.00	Tapers
\$ 270.00	Church Dues
\$ 191.00	Maintenance & Repairs
<b>\$ 1396.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

**38<sup>TH</sup> 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

**FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF**

**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 Childrens' Religious Education program of St. Vladimir parish. For details and reservations contact Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275.

**St. Mary's Byzantine Center**, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. is having their **INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB**, Christmas Menu on December 11, 2014. Seatings are at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Please confirm reservations by Friday, Dec. 5, 2014 at 570-343-5151. The menu will start with Cranberry and Poached Pear Salad with bleu cheese & orange vinaigrette and the entrée will be Roast Pork Tenderloin with a sausage cornbread & sage stuffing topped with a Shiraz demi-glaze, Mashed Sweet Potatoes with grilled pineapple and brown sugar, Sauteed Cauliflower & Broccoli Medley with Julienne roasted peppers. The dessert will be Mincemeat Pie drizzled with Crème Anglaise. Coffee, Tea, Soda and Water are included and a cash bar is available. The cost is only \$20.00 per person.

ENTRY INTO THE TEMPLE OF OUR  
MOSTHOLY LADY MOTHER OF GOD AND  
EVER-VIRGIN MARY.

November 21/December 4

*from [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)*

The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God happened, according to the preserved accounts of Holy Tradition, in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Righteous Joakim and Anna, in praying for a solution to their childlessness, gave a vow that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached three years of age, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. Having gathered together their kinsfolk and acquaintances, and having dressed the All-Pure Mary in Her finest clothes, and with the singing of sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands they carried Her to the Jerusalem Temple. There the high-priest with a throng of priests met the maiden of God. In the Temple, the stairway led up fifteen high steps. The Child Mary, so it seemed, could not Herself make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly made it up over the remaining steps and ascended to the highest. Then the high-priest, through

an inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, and herein of all people it was only the high-priest that entered one time a year with a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

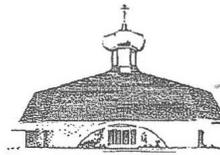
Righteous Joakim and Anna, having entrusted their Child to the will of the Heavenly Father, returned home. The Most Blessed Mary remained in the domicile for girls, situated near the Temple. Round about the Temple, through the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Lk. 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters, in which dwelt those dedicated to the service of God.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Mother of God from the time of Her infancy to the time of Her ascent to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me, -- said Blessed Jerome, -- how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, -- I would answer: that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian".

But in the Church tradition there were preserved accounts, that during the time of the stay of the All-Pure Virgin at the Jerusalem Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, read diligently the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handcrafts, prayed constantly and grew in love for God. In remembrance of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Jerusalem Temple, Holy Church from ancient times established a solemn feastday. The decretals for the making of the feast in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, where mention is made that the holy Empress Helen built a church in honour of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God.

In the IV Century there is mention of this feast by Sainted Gregory of Nyssa. In the VIII Century Saints Germanos and Tarasios, Constantinople Patriarchs, delivered sermons on the feastday of the Entry.

The feast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God -- foretells the blessing of God for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.



# St. George's Orthodox Greek Catholic Church

CHURCH: 743 S. KEYSER AVENUE • RECTORY: 745 S. KEYSER AVENUE  
TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA 18517

FAX: (570) 562-3224 • E-MAIL: Fr.mal@comcast.net

REV. MARK LEASURE  
Pastor

October 27, 2014

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church  
505 Jefferson Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18510  
Jean Togher, President

Subject: Cemetery Costs Due

Dear Ms Togher:

Enclosed is a schedule of the total cemetery expenses borne by St. George's Church for the one year period from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 which totaled \$ 10,661.12. This total cost is for maintenance of the entire cemetery grounds including the 25% on behalf of St. Nicholas Church.

The percentage owed by St. Nicholas' Church, 25%, amounts to \$2,640.28.

Please make a payment of \$2,640.28 to St. George's Church.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either the Church Office at 570-562-2090 or me at 570-562-2548 (home) or 570-561-4530 (cell).

Very Truly Yours,

Nicholas Kofira, Treasurer

## St. George's Church - Last year

1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

10/27/2014

Date	Account	Description	Memo	Tag	Clr	Amount
<b>EXPENSES</b>						<b>-10,661.12</b>
<b>Cemetery Care</b>						<b>-10,661.12</b>
	gas					-520.70
	Labor					-4,217.00
	Supplies					-5,173.42
6/9/2013	Checking Account at...	5Cash				-13.22
8/18/2013	Checking Account at...	5Cash				-35.25
5/9/2013	Checking Account at...	5Cresswell Drilling Co.	Well Repair			-925.00
1/11/2013	Checking Account at...	5F & S Supply Co., Inc.	Truck Plow			-72.19
1/30/2013	Checking Account at...	5F & S Supply Co., Inc.	Truck Salt Spr...			-893.50
5/11/2013	Checking Account at...	5Grand Rental Station	Loader, Skid ...			-850.00
5/31/2013	Checking Account at...	5Home Depot Credit S...	Paid by Phone			-133.27
8/23/2013	Checking Account at...	5Home Depot Credit S...				-68.77
10/28/2013	Checking Account at...	5Home Depot Credit S...				-371.00
4/4/2013	Checking Account at...	5John Orleski	Battery			-29.00
5/9/2013	Checking Account at...	5John Orleski				-34.39
2/7/2013	Checking Account at...	5Pa Paper & Supply	Rock Salt, Ca...			-272.83
4/16/2013	Checking Account at...	5Scartelli Construction	Top Soil			-375.00
4/28/2013	Checking Account at...	5Scartelli Construction	Gravel			-325.00
			Top Soil			-300.00
6/19/2013	Checking Account at...	5Scartelli Construction	Stone			-325.00
4/11/2013	Checking Account at...	5Van Fleet Drilling Co.,...	Camera Use...			-150.00
<b>Other Cemetery Care</b>						<b>-750.00</b>
4/4/2013	Checking Account at...	5Michael Pehonich	Plowing			-750.00