

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 11.2

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., Pastor

Jane Togher, Board President

Rectory: 570-344-5917

570-842-3311

Cell: 724-953-6046

jtogher@yahoo.com

nferencz35@gmail.com

Madelyn Hodanich, Choir Director

www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org

Hall - 570-344-1522

November 9, 2014

22ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST. 6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 9 22nd Sunday of Pentecost. 6th Sunday of Luke. Martyr Nestor. Prokla, wife of Pontius Pilate.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 5 pp. 93–95.

Men's Club Regular Monthly Meeting

1:30 PM *DDD Preprandials*

2:30 PM *DDD Dinner*

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

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Next Feast Day is *St. Michael and all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven*, on Fri., Nov. 21. Divine Liturgy will be at 9:00 AM.

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.

Altar Vigils: Memory of Marion Pucher by the Pucher family.

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

PARISH STUFF

SUNDAY SOCIAL HOUR! Bill and Carol Wassel are stepping down from running the Social Hour after Liturgy. We are looking for volunteers to help out with this important ministry. If you are interested in helping out, please let Jane Togher or Fr. Nik know as soon as you can.

NEXT PIROHI SALE FRI., NOV. 21. Thanks to all who helped this week.

Church School: Church School meets next Sunday.

Men's Club regular monthly meeting is today.

Parish Board meets next Sunday, Nov. 16.

Altar Society's next meeting will be on Sunday, December 7.

DDD Dinner Info: 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.

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 2

\$ 546.00	General Collection
\$ 176.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 86.00	7-day Candles
\$ 10.00	Altar Vigil Lights
\$ 120.00	Heat Offering
\$ 11.00	Tapers
\$ 949.00	Total Collection

DDD Donors 2014 to date: Edward Bonk, Jr. \$100. Stephanie Bonk \$100. John Polanichka \$100. Carol Pugh \$100. John & Rosemary Hrywnak \$200. Frank Pucher \$100. Julie Worobey \$100.

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:

1) *Exterior Work:* This work is completed. Take a gander at the metal roofs on the church and house. Check out the house soffit & trim work also. Nicely done.

2) *Kitchen renovation:* The kitchen renovation is almost done. The last job to do is the floor, which is scheduled to be completed this week. Assuming everything goes well, everyone will be invited to come and see the new kitchen after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 23. Fr. Nik will be there to answer any questions about the work.

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) are asked to see Nick Polanichka.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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.*

Contact Rachel Pribish for further information or questions, 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.

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 310 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. **International Dinner** will feature "Italian Fare" Thursday November 13, 2014 with seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. The menu starts with Minestrone Soup and an Appetizer of Eggplant Rollentini. The Entrée will be Roman Style Baked Chicken, Penne Pasta w/Vodka Sauce and Green Beans con Fresco. The dessert is a Crème de Menthe Por Blanco. Coffee, tea, soda, or water are included for \$20.00 per person. Cash Bar is available. Make your reservations by Nov. 10th at 570-343-5151.

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 Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 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) Just in time for Thanksgiving Day, On Thursday Nov. 27th, 2014. Call Dorothy at 570-489-2476, Marlene at 570-876-1008, or Cheryl 570-489-4348 for more information.

The 2015 Ecclesiastical Wall Calendar, with a Martyrology of the Byzantine Church is available for a donation along with "Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks" Cookbook, Volume I and II Set for \$25.00. The 125th Anniversary of the Church DVD is available for \$5.00. Rev. Nestor Iwasiw Pastor at 570-489-2271. Websites: www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com and www.parishesonline.com/sscyrilmethodiusblakely

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.

HOLY, GLORIOUS DEMETRIUS THE
MYRRHGUSHER OF THESSALONICA

October 26/November 8
from www.OCA.org

The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home,

By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The compiler of his Life, St Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessalonica, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" once founded at this city the first community of believers (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by

the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to his advisor Demetrius and requested a blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Demetrius, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor (October 27) and sent a guard to the prison to kill St Demetrius.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, St Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of St Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of St Demetrius, St Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of St Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher."

Several times, those venerating the holy wonderworker tried to bring his holy relics, or a part of them, to Constantinople. Invariably, St Demetrius made it clear that he would not permit anyone to remove even a portion of his relics.

It is interesting that among the barbarians threatening the Romans, Slavs occupied an important place, in particular those settling upon the Thessalonian peninsula. Some even believe that the parents of St Demetrius were of Slavic descent. While advancing towards the city, pagan Slavs were repeatedly turned away by the apparition of a threatening radiant youth, going around on the walls and inspiring terror in the enemy soldiers. Perhaps this is why the name of St Demetrius was particularly

venerated among the Slavic nations after they were enlightened by the Gospel. On the other hand, the Greeks dismiss the notion of St Demetrius being a Slavic saint.

HOLY MARTYR NESTOR

October 28/November 9

from <http://www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org/>

We are all familiar with St. Demetrios, who is greatly revered throughout the Orthodox world. The story of this great Martyr, however, cannot be told properly without reference to his friend Nestor, who faithfully served with him in life, and suffered with him in death.

When St. Demetrios was thrown into prison by the Emperor Maximianus, it was Nestor who visited him regularly. It was during one of his visits that Nestor was told by Demetrios that the power of the Lord could make him invincible against any foe. Encouraged by these words, Nestor devised a plan to win his companion's release. Knowing that one of the Emperor's favorite gladiators— a giant of a man named Lyaeos — fought regularly in the arena in Thessalonika, where Demetrios was imprisoned, Nestor issued a challenge to him. If he could win this encounter in the name of Christ, surely, he thought, his friend would be set free!

Nestor indeed was strengthened by the power of the Lord. Despite his lack of experience in the ways of the arena, and even though he was terribly outmatched physically in his battle with Lyaeos, Nestor was victorious in this titanic struggle.

The Emperor, however, was infuriated by this embarrassing turn of events. Nestor was seized by the Roman soldiers and , along with his beloved friend Demetrios, was executed immediately.

HOLY PROKLA (ALSO KNOWN AS CLAUDIA)

Oct. 28/November 9

from www.OCA.org

Holy Tradition tells us that she was the wife of Pontius Pilate. She makes a brief appearance in the story of our Lord's Passion, as she tries to convince her husband to release Jesus. "Have nothing to do with that just Man," she begs, "for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." After His Resurrection, Prokla became one of the Lord's disciples.