

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 12, 2014

Sunday after Christmas. Sunday before Theophany.

Remembering King David, Joseph the Betrothed & James, Brother of the Lord.

15th Sunday of Luke. 29th Sunday after Pentecost.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 12 Sunday after Christmas:
Commemoration of Holy Joseph,
David, & James, relatives of the Lord.
Sunday Before Theophany.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Men's Club meeting scheduled

TUE., JAN. 14 CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD. ST.
BASIL THE GREAT

8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Pew Book pp. 140-141
Remembering Steve Roberts

SUN., JAN. 19 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - All from Theophany
pp. 145-148.
Great Blessing of Water.
Parish Board Meets.

FEASTS AND FASTS

No Fast! No fasting is permitted from Christmas Day,
Jan. 7, through Fri., Jan. 17, as we celebrate the Birth
of Our Lord.

Feast Day: Tue., Jan. 14: *Circumcision of Our Lord
& Commemoration of St. Basil the Great.* Divine
Liturgy is at 8:00 AM.

Theophany Eve, Saturday, Jan. 18, is a day of
mitigated Fast (no meat) as we prepare to celebrate the
great Feast of Theophany on Sunday.

Vilija: Some people still keep the custom of
celebrating another *Vilija - Holy Supper* on
Theophany Eve, since Theophany is celebrated
just like Christmas.

**Theophany, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord
in the Jordan.** Sunday January 19. We will bless the
Jordan Water at the end of the Divine Liturgy on that
day.

Don't forget to bring your holy water jar to take
some of the new Jordan water home with you. Any
Holy Water you have from previous years should
be poured out on the ground, preferably in a flower
garden or somewhere else that it will not be
walked on.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Stephen Roberts.

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary
Chupron. Susan Danchak. Michael Danchak. Jada
Eiden. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba.
Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher.
Dana Polanichka. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie
Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Jeff
Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel. Michael

Wassel. Julia Worobey.

At Home: Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. George & Anna Senich. Kathryn Stocoski.

In Assisted Living Homes: Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

Eternal Light: Memory of Alexander & Stephanie Basalyga by Lovie Swingle

Altar Vigil Lights (2): Memory of William Joyce by Gary Joyce and family.

Panachida: William Joyce by Gary Joyce & fam.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, January 5, 2014

\$ 734.00	General Collection
\$ 172.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 73.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 137.00	Holy Days
\$ 10.00	Tapers
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 200.00	Christmas
\$ 5.00	Flowers
\$ 185.00	In memory of Stephen Roberts
\$ 1523.00	Total Collection

Christmas Day, January 7, 2014

\$ 43.00	General Collection
\$ 8.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 81.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 15.00	Holy Days
\$ 8.00	Tapers
\$ 1269.00	Christmas
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 1514.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Men's Club meets today.

Parish Board meets next Sun., Jan. 19.

Church School meets for its first session of the New Year on Sunday, January 26. All Classes will meet.

Food Collection Results: 6 boxes of food and a check in the amount of \$100 were delivered today to the Bread Basket of Northeastern Pa. The volunteers were touched by the continued generosity of the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church and thanked us for supporting the needy of the community.

Adult Enrichment Gatherings: The first gathering for the new year will be on Wed., Jan. 22, at 6 PM.

House Blessings: This year will begin, as always after Jan. 19, when we bless the new Jordan Water. I will be happy to come to your house to bless it if you want me to do so. There is a form in the bulletin. Fill it out and put it in the collection basket, or give it to me at the end of Liturgy.

Or, you can email me and let me know you would like your house blessed. I will make arrangements and set a schedule by Jan. 19.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Malanka! Northeastern Pennsylvania's 10th Annual MALANKA is scheduled for Saturday evening, January 11, 2014 from 6:00pm to 1:00am at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 728 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton.

The festive evening will include a generous Slavic and American dinner buffet catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers, cash bar, complimentary bubbly toast and dancing to the internationally known Ukrainian orchestra "Fata Morgana". Door prizes will be awarded along with special awards for the lady and gentleman wearing the most attractive Ukrainian embroidered apparel. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and can be obtained by contacting Michael Trusz at 570 489-1256. *No tickets will be sold at the door - advance reservations are required.*

The Annual March for Life will be held in Washington DC on Wednesday 22 January 2014. As they have done in the past, Fr. Peter Zarynow and the parish of Holy Resurrection Church in Potomac, MD would like to welcome all of our Diocesan participants to a light luncheon before going to the National Mall. We would beg the luncheon early, about 10:30, to give time for the meal and some fellowship before re-boarding busses or heading to the METRO. If you are planning on coming to the March, and would like to join us, please contact Fr. Peter by phone (301-299-5120) or email (frzarynow@gmail.com) by no later than Friday evening 17 January. We need to know how many are coming so that we can prepare the right amount of food. Thank you and see you in DC!

Camp Nazareth – Looking Ahead for this summer: *A message from Fr. Steve Loposky, Camp Director:* Camp Nazareth is eagerly awaiting and preparing for

the arrival of the Summer Camping Season. Diocesan priests and parents have already been calling to find out the details of the 2014 Summer Camping Schedule. The 2014 Schedule has been posted on the Camp's website - www.campnazareth.org. In addition, all the necessary forms for parents, campers, clergy, volunteers and staff have been posted. Here is what is different from previous years in this information:

1. Dates have changed but especially the Application and Early Bird Deadlines
2. In addition, there is an article on the Camp website dealing with homesickness with tips to parents for preparing their kids (and themselves) for Camp.
3. The Fee for Camp is: \$285/diocesan camper and \$335/non-diocesan camper.
4. Staff applications are due March 15th, 2015.
5. If anyone is interested in being on the Camp's Medical Staff (MD, RN or LPN required), please contact Fr. Steve at the Camp. Please also note that the Nurse or Doctor on staff each week will receive a campership for one of their children or for someone whom they designate.

All are encouraged to "come and see" the blessings in store for them here. While some children need no encouragement to attend Camp, there are others who do need encouragement and support. We ask our parents and parishioners to especially encourage our parish children to participate in the Camp this year. *Please remember* that we have historically covered the camp fees for all the children in the parish who attend the camp.

Camp Summer Staff: We encourage those who are of age (at least 18 by the beginning of the Summer Season and have completed High School), to be part of the Camp's Summer Staff. There are positions available as counselor, head counselor, kitchen staff,

maintenance staff, athletic director, program director, and lifeguard. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to get involved in this vital and meaningful diocesan apostolate, form lasting friendships, and use their God-given talents for the benefit and upbuilding of our Church. Personally, I never attended Camp as a Camper or as part of the Staff, but my experience as a deanery priest, and now as Camp Administrator, has made me wish I had. The link for staff employment opportunities is www.campnazareth.org/Forms&Registration.htm.

Last but not least: Please note that the week for our Pocono Deanery is Week 1– July 13-19, 2014, together with the Johnstown, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 17:10-14, Lev. 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled.

The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

HOUSE BLESSING FORM

Yes, I/we would like to have our house blessed this year. Please call so that we can set up a time and day.

Name _____

Phone _____ 2nd Phone _____

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col. 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by St Stephen of the St Sava Monastery (October 28 and July 13).

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt.1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Cæsarea

Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, "belongs not to the Church of Caesarea alone, nor merely to his own time, nor was he of benefit only to his own kinsmen, but rather to all lands and cities worldwide, and to all people he brought and still brings benefit, and for Christians he always was and will be a most salvific teacher." Thus spoke St Basil's contemporary, St Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium.

St Basil was born in the year 330 at Caesarea, the administrative center of Cappadocia. He was of illustrious lineage, famed for its eminence and wealth, and zealous for the Christian Faith. The saint's grandfather and grandmother on his father's side had to hide in the forests of Pontus for seven years during the persecution under Diocletian.

St Basil's mother St Emilia was the daughter of a martyr. On the Greek calendar, she is commemorated on May 30. St Basil's father was also named Basil. He was a lawyer and renowned rhetorician, and lived at Caesarea.

Ten children were born to the elder Basil and Emilia: five sons and five daughters. Five of them were later numbered among the saints: Basil the Great; Macrina (July 19) was an exemplar of ascetic life, and exerted strong influence on the life and character of St Basil the Great; Gregory, afterwards Bishop of Nyssa (January 10); Peter, Bishop of Sebaste (January 9); and Theosebia, a deaconess (January 10).

St Basil spent the first years of his life on an estate belonging to his parents at the River Iris, where he was raised under the supervision of his mother Emilia and grandmother Macrina. They were women of great refinement, who remembered an earlier bishop of Cappadocia, St Gregory the Wonderworker (November 17). Basil received his initial education under the supervision of his father, and then he studied under the finest teachers in Caesarea of Cappadocia, and it was here that he made the acquaintance of St Gregory the Theologian (January 25 and January 30). Later, Basil transferred to a school at Constantinople, where he listened to eminent orators and philosophers. To complete his education St Basil went to Athens, the center of classical enlightenment.

After a four or five year stay at Athens, Basil had mastered all the available disciplines. "He studied everything thoroughly, more than others are wont to study a single subject. He studied each science in its very totality, as though he would study nothing else." Philosopher, philologist, orator, jurist, naturalist, possessing profound knowledge in astronomy, mathematics and medicine, "he was a ship fully laden with learning, to the extent permitted by human nature." (*Continue next week*)