

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 1.3

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., pastor
Rectory: 570-344-5917
Cell: 724-953-6046

Hall - 570-344-1522
www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org
nferencz35@gmail.com

January 19, 2014

Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

PARISH CALENDAR

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.

Sun., Jan. 26 Sunday Theophany. 17th Sunday of Luke. Bishop Hilary of Poitiers.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets

Church School - All Classes

FEASTS AND FASTS

Fasting – This week we return to the ordinary weekly fasting.

Today is Theophany, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord in the Jordan. We will bless the Jordan Water at the end of the Divine Liturgy today.

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 Tigie. 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 Marion Pucher by family.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, January 12, 2014

\$ 610.00	General Collection
\$ 9.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 89.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 44.00	Holy Days
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 3.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 10.00	Altar Vigil Lights
\$ 20.00	Tapers
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 1099.00	Christmas
\$ 10.00	Flowers
\$ 50.00	In memory of Stephen Roberts
\$ 2041.00	Total Collection

A Special Thanks to the *Altar Society* for their Christmas donation to the parish of \$500.

PARISH STUFF

Parish Board meets today.

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

Cookie Walk Results: The Cookie Walk made \$913. Thanks to all who donated baked goods, money and their time to make this event such a success! Start baking now for next year!

Altar Society will meet Sunday, Feb. 2 for their regular monthly meeting.

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.

PIROHI SALES UPCOMING – Those of you who work so hard at the parish Pirohi Sales know that we got into a bit of a time bind at the end of the Fall sales, making it necessary for us to add extra days making extra pirohi just before Christmas. It made life just a little bit harder for all the pirohi workers at that time.

We would like to avoid getting into the same situation this coming Spring, especially since our Easter is the same day as the Western celebration. So, we are going to try to do things a little differently, spreading the work out, hopefully making it easier on people to work and to plan. Maybe we will also be able to get some other folks to also help out as much as they can. Here is the plan:

1. *One day a week - Wednesdays.* We are going to try out making pirohi only one day a week - Wednesday. We'll make 2 bags of potatoes (the usual amount) from start to finish. If we start peeling potatoes at 6 AM, start pinching around 9 AM, we are usually cleaning up by 2 PM at the latest. It makes a long morning, but it is only one day a week.
2. *Almost every week.* Although we are still only having sales every other week, we are planning to

make pirohi every week, with a couple of off weeks to break it up. This way we hope to stockpile pirohi for the grand finish, and avoid the last minute rush. We have estimated the amount we will need for the sales and worked out a schedule based on that. See the box for the schedule.

PIROHI MAKING (WED)	PIROHI SALE (FRI)
January 29	January 31
February 5	
February 12	February 14
February 19	
February 26	February 28
<i>Not March 5</i>	
March 12	March 14
March 19	
March 26	March 28
<i>Not April 2</i>	
April 9	April 11 - Last Sale

If this works for the Spring Sales, we can do the same for the coming Fall Sales, or we can tweak and adjust as necessary. If you have any questions, please see Millie Orzolek or Fr. Nik. Let's ask for God's guidance and help in working at this important parish fund raiser.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Camp Nazareth – Looking Ahead for this summer: Camp Nazareth is eagerly awaiting and preparing for the arrival of the Summer Camping Season. 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. Application dates have changed.
2. In addition, there is an article on the Camp website dealing about homesickness.
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: Those young folks who are at least 18 by the beginning of the Summer Season and have completed High School are especially encourage to be part of the Camp's Summer Staff. Positions include counselor, head counselor, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, athletic director, program director, and lifeguard. The link for staff employment 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.

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast St. Thomas More Catholic Parish -- located at St. Joseph Church, 1625 North Main Avenue (at Theodore Street), Scranton, 18508 -- will offer a pancake & sausage brunch in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 26 from 11:30 a.m. until food runs out. The price is newly reduced from \$7 to \$5 per person, and is capped at \$25 per family. The meal includes coffee, tea, juice, pancakes, syrup, sausage from North Scranton's own Murazzi meats, and more. All are welcome. CONTACT: Paul Campbell, Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic

Parish, 570-343-0634. contact@stmscranton.org

International Dinner Club. St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18510 is having their INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB on Thursday, February 13, 2014. The price is \$25.00 per person and there are two seatings; 5:30 or 6:30pm. The phone number is 570-343-5151 and the deadline is February 10th. "A Taste of Italy" will start with Fresh Baked Focaccia Bread, Italian Wedding Soup and an Antipasto. The Entree will be Tuscan Chicken Ravioli with Beef Wrapped Asparagus and the Dessert is a delicious Strawberry Pound Cake drizzled with orange liquor and topped with balsamic soaked strawberries and freshly made whipped cream. Coffee, Tea, Water, Soda and a complimentary glass of wine or beer is also included. Do not miss this fantastic dinner!

ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA

(Continued from last week) From OCA.org.

At Athens a close friendship developed between Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian (Nazianzus), which continued throughout their life. In fact, they regarded themselves as one soul in two bodies. Later on, in his eulogy for Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian speaks with delight about this period: "Various hopes guided us, and indeed inevitably, in learning... Two paths opened up before us: the one to our sacred temples and the teachers therein; the other towards preceptors of disciplines beyond."

About the year 357, St Basil returned to Caesarea, where for a while he devoted himself to rhetoric. But soon, refusing offers from Caesarea's citizens who wanted to entrust him with the education of their offspring, St Basil entered upon the path of ascetic life.

After the death of her husband, Basil's mother, her

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 _____

eldest daughter Macrina, and several female servants withdrew to the family estate at Iris and there began to lead an ascetic life. Basil was baptized by Dianios, the Bishop of Caesarea, and was tonsured a Reader (On the Holy Spirit, 29). He first read the Holy Scriptures to the people, then explained them.

Later on, “wishing to acquire a guide to the knowledge of truth”, the saint undertook a journey into Egypt, Syria and Palestine, to meet the great Christian ascetics dwelling there. On returning to Cappadocia, he decided to do as they did. He distributed his wealth to the needy, then settled on the opposite side of the river not far from his mother Emilia and sister Macrina, gathering around him monks living a cenobitic life.

By his letters, Basil drew his good friend Gregory the Theologian to the monastery. Sts. Basil and Gregory labored in strict abstinence in their dwelling place, which had no roof or fireplace, and the food was very humble. They themselves cleared away the stones, planted and watered the trees, and carried heavy loads. Their hands were constantly calloused from the hard work. For clothing Basil had only a tunic and monastic mantle. He wore a hairshirt, but only at night, so that it would not be obvious.

In their solitude, Sts Basil and Gregory occupied themselves in an intense study of Holy Scripture. They were guided by the writings of the Fathers and commentators of the past, especially the good writings of Origen. From all these works they compiled an anthology called Philokalia. Also at this time, at the request of the monks, St Basil wrote down a collection of rules for virtuous life. By his preaching and by his example St Basil assisted in the spiritual perfection of Christians in Cappadocia and Pontus, and many indeed turned to him. Monasteries were organized for men and for women, in which places Basil sought to combine the cenobitic (koine bios, or common) lifestyle with that of the solitary hermit.

During the reign of Constantius (337-361) the heretical teachings of Arius were spreading, and the Church summoned both its saints into service. St Basil returned to Caesarea. In the year 362 he was ordained deacon by Bishop Meletius of Antioch. In 364 he was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea. “But seeing,” as Gregory the Theologian relates, “that everyone exceedingly praised and honored Basil for his wisdom and reverence, Eusebius, through human weakness, succumbed to jealousy of him, and began to show dislike for him.” The monks rose up in defense of St Basil. To avoid causing Church discord, Basil withdrew to his own monastery and concerned himself with the organization of monasteries.

With the coming to power of the emperor Valens (364-378), who was a resolute adherent of Arianism, a time of troubles began for Orthodoxy, the onset of a great struggle. St Basil hastily returned to Caesarea at the request of Bishop Eusebius. In the words of Gregory the Theologian, he was for Bishop Eusebius “a good advisor, a righteous representative, an expounder of the Word of God, a staff for the aged, a faithful support in internal matters, and an activist in external matters.”

From this time church governance passed over to Basil, though he was subordinate to the hierarch. He preached daily, and often twice, in the morning and in the evening. During this time St Basil composed his Liturgy. He wrote a work “On the Six Days of Creation” (Hexaemeron) and another on the Prophet Isaiah in sixteen chapters, yet another on the Psalms, and also a second compilation of monastic rules. St Basil wrote also three books “Against Eunomius,” an Arian teacher who, with the help of Aristotelian concepts, had presented the Arian dogma in philosophic form, converting Christian teaching into a logical scheme of rational concepts.