

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 26, 2014

Sunday after Theophany

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 26 Sunday after Theophany. 17th Sunday of Luke. Bishop Hilary of Poitiers.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Church School - All Classes

Wed., Jan. 29 Veneration of the Chains of St. Peter.
6 AM *Pirohi Prep*
9 AM-ish *Pirohi Making*
6 PM Adult Enrichment Group

Fri., Jan. 31 Archbishops Athanasius & Cyril of Alexandria
Pirohi Sale

Sun., Feb. 2 *Sunday of Zacchaeus*. Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Blue Pew Book, pp. 99–101
Altar Society Meets

FEASTS AND FASTS

Sunday of Zacchaeus: Believe it or not, next Sunday begins the Pre-Lenten Period, with the reading of the Gospel about Zacchaeus. Nothing special happening yet, but it is a wake-up call to be aware that Great Lent is just around the corner.

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 Christine Ceccoli by Bill & Beverly Thomas.

Panachida: John Czibik by Laurence Czibik.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, January 19, 2014

\$ 498.00	General Collection
\$ 85.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 111.00	Holy Days
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 103.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 9.00	Tapers
\$ 896.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Church School meets for its first session of the New Year today. All Classes will meet.

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

Thanks & God Bless to those who came to help de-decorate the Church and the hall, especially since it was on one of the coldest days of the year. Your work is really appreciated!

Adult Enrichment Gatherings: This Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6 PM.

Please note: I just realized that this announcement has had a typo error on the *date* which I kept cutting and pasting from week to week, without noticing it. The first scheduled date was supposed to be *this week*, not last week. They are then scheduled to be every other week through Lent.

Maintenance Person needed: The Parish Board is looking for a person to do regular maintenance in the church and the hall. Salary is \$100/month. If you are interested, or if you would like to see a job description, please see Jane Togher.

House Blessings: I am including a house blessing form in this bulletin for the last time. I will be happy to come to your house to bless it if you want me to do so. Use the form, or email me, or call the rectory and leave a message.

New Jordan Water: The font is being left in the front of the church this week again for anyone who forgot to get water last week. I will be moving it back to its place this week, but the Holy Jordan Water will still be available regularly in the stainless steel "Holy Water" font on the Theotokos side of the church.

PIROHI SALES START THIS WEEK – We will begin Pirohi Prep at 6 AM this Wednesday. We should be ready to start pinching by 9 AM-ish.

In case you missed it last week, here is a summary of changes we are trying out in order to (we hope) make it easier for all of you who work at the Pirohi Sales so hard:

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. With a good crowd, we can be cleaning up by 2-ish. It makes a long morning, but it is only one day a week.
2. *Almost every week.* Sales will be every other week, as usual, but we will make pirohi pretty regularly every week, with a couple of off weeks to break it up. See the box for the schedule.
3. We're trying something different here, and planning to tweak and adjust as necessary. If you have any questions, please see Millie Orzolek or Fr. Nik.

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

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Camp Nazareth – Looking Ahead for this summer:

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. There are some changes in dates and fees – see the website.

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 encouraged 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 Hall -- located at St. Joseph Church, 1625 North Main Avenue (at Theodore Street), Scranton, 18508 -- on Sunday, January 26 from 11:30 a.m. until food runs out. \$5 per person, 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, 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

(Last installment) From OCA.org.

St Gregory the Theologian, speaking about the activity of Basil the Great during this period, points to “the caring for the destitute and the taking in of strangers, the supervision of virgins, written and unwritten monastic rules for monks, the arrangement of prayers [Liturgy], the felicitous arrangement of altars and other things.” Upon the death of Eusebius,

the Bishop of Caesarea, St Basil was chosen to succeed him in the year 370. As Bishop of Caesarea, St Basil the Great was the newest of fifty bishops in eleven provinces. St Athanasius the Great (May 2), with joy and with thanks to God welcomed the appointment to Cappadocia of such a bishop as Basil, famed for his reverence, deep knowledge of Holy Scripture, great learning, and his efforts for the welfare of Church peace and unity.

Under Valens, the external government belonged to the Arians, who held various opinions regarding the divinity of the Son of God, and were divided into several factions. These dogmatic disputes were concerned with questions about the Holy Spirit. In his book *Against Eunomios*, St Basil the Great taught the divinity of the Holy Spirit and His equality with the Father and the Son. Subsequently, in order to provide a full explanation of Orthodox teaching on this question, St Basil wrote his book *On the Holy Spirit* at the request of St Amphilochius, the Bishop of Iconium.

St Basil’s difficulties were made worse by various circumstances: Cappadocia was divided in two under the rearrangement of provincial districts. Then at Antioch a schism occurred, occasioned by the consecration of a second bishop. There was the negative and haughty attitude of Western bishops to the attempts to draw them into the struggle with the Arians. And there was also the departure of Eustathius of Sebaste over to the Arian side. Basil had been connected to him by ties of close friendship. Amidst the constant perils St Basil gave encouragement to the Orthodox, confirmed them in the Faith, summoning them to bravery and endurance. The holy bishop wrote numerous letters to the churches, to bishops, to clergy and to individuals. Overcoming the heretics “by the weapon of his mouth, and by the arrows of his letters,” as an untiring champion of Orthodoxy, St Basil challenged the hostility and intrigues of the Arian

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 _____

heretics all his life. He has been compared to a bee, stinging the Church's enemies, yet nourishing his flock with the sweet honey of his teaching.

The emperor Valens, mercilessly sending into exile any bishop who displeased him, and having implanted Arianism into other Asia Minor provinces, suddenly appeared in Cappadocia for this same purpose. He sent the prefect Modestus to St Basil. He began to threaten the saint with the confiscation of his property, banishment, beatings, and even death.

St Basil said, "If you take away my possessions, you will not enrich yourself, nor will you make me a pauper. You have no need of my old worn-out clothing, nor of my few books, of which the entirety of my wealth is comprised. Exile means nothing to me, since I am bound to no particular place. This place in which I now dwell is not mine, and any place you send me shall be mine. Better to say: every place is God's. Where would I be neither a stranger and sojourner (Ps. 38/39:13)? Who can torture me? I am so weak, that the very first blow would render me insensible. Death would be a kindness to me, for it will bring me all the sooner to God, for Whom I live and labor, and to Whom I hasten."

The official was stunned by his answer. "No one has ever spoken so audaciously to me," he said.

"Perhaps," the saint remarked, "that is because you've never spoken to a bishop before. In all else we are meek, the most humble of all. But when it concerns God, and people rise up against Him, then we, counting everything else as naught, look to Him alone. Then fire, sword, wild beasts and iron rods that rend the body, serve to fill us with joy, rather than fear."

Reporting to Valens that St Basil was not to be intimidated, Modestus said, "Emperor, we stand defeated by a leader of the Church." Basil the Great again showed firmness before the emperor and his retinue and made such a strong impression on Valens that the emperor dared not give in to the Arians demanding Basil's exile. "On the day of Theophany, amidst an innumerable multitude of the people, Valens entered the church and mixed in with the throng, in order to give the appearance of being in unity with the Church. When the singing of Psalms began in the church, it was like thunder to his hearing. The emperor beheld a sea of people, and in the altar and all around was splendor; in front of all was Basil, who

acknowledged neither by gesture nor by glance, that anything else was going on in church." Everything was focused only on God and the altar-table, and the clergy serving there in awe and reverence.

St Basil celebrated the church services almost every day. He was particularly concerned about the strict fulfilling of the Canons of the Church, and took care that only worthy individuals should enter into the clergy. He incessantly made the rounds of his own church, lest anywhere there be an infraction of Church discipline, and setting aright any unseemliness. At Caesarea, St Basil built two monasteries, a men's and a women's, with a church in honor of the Forty Martyrs (March 9) whose relics were buried there. Following the example of monks, the saint's clergy, even deacons and priests, lived in remarkable poverty, to toil and lead chaste and virtuous lives. For his clergy St Basil obtained an exemption from taxation. He used all his personal wealth and the income from his church for the benefit of the destitute; in every center of his diocese he built a poor-house; and at Caesarea, a home for wanderers and the homeless.

Sickly since youth, the toil of teaching, his life of abstinence, and the concerns and sorrows of pastoral service took their toll on him. St Basil died on January 1, 379 at age 49. Shortly before his death, the saint blessed St Gregory the Theologian to accept the See of Constantinople.

Upon the repose of St Basil, the Church immediately began to celebrate his memory. St Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium (November 23), in his eulogy to St Basil the Great, said: "It is neither without a reason nor by chance that holy Basil has taken leave from the body and had repose from the world unto God on the day of the Circumcision of Jesus, celebrated between the day of the Nativity and the day of the Baptism of Christ. Therefore, this most blessed one, preaching and praising the Nativity and Baptism of Christ, extolling spiritual circumcision, himself forsaking the flesh, now ascends to Christ on the sacred day of remembrance of the Circumcision of Christ. Therefore, let it also be established on this present day annually to honor the memory of Basil the Great festively and with solemnity."

St Basil is also called "the revealer of heavenly mysteries" (Ouranophantor), a "renowned and bright star," and "the glory and beauty of the Church." His honorable head is in the Great Lavra on Mount Athos.