

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 23, 2014  
Meat-fare Sunday  
The Last Judgment

### PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun., Feb. 23 *Meat-Fare Sunday*. Martyr Charalampas.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets  
Church School - All Classes
- Tue., Feb. 25 Archbishop Meletius of Antioch.  
6 AM *Pirohi Prep*  
6 PM Adult Enrichment Group
- Wed., Feb. 26 Apostles Prisca & Aquila. Virgin Photina.  
9 AM-ish *Pirohi Pinching*
- Fri., Feb. 28 Apostle Onesimus  
Noon – 4:30 PM *Pirohi Sale*
- Sun., Mar. 2 *Cheese-Fare Sunday*. Great-martyr Theodore the Recruit.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets  
*Brief Coffee Social*  
Altar Society meets  
11:30 AM-ish Forgiveness Vespers  
Holy Mystery of Confession

### THE LENTEN FAST

Below is an expanded explanation of fasting, which includes both the Diocesan Regulations and more traditional fasting guidelines for all of Lent. *Please note: The “traditional rules” regarding fasting published here have been very simplified from the actual rules.*

**CLEAN WEEK (MAR. 3 – MAR. 8):** The first week of Lent is called Clean Week, since the emphasis is on

the cleansing of both the soul and the body.

DIOCESAN RULES require Strict Fast on Clean Monday, no meat on Wednesday & Friday.

TRADITIONAL RULES call for not eating at all between Vespers on Sunday and the Presanctified Liturgy. If one does eat, they are supposed to only eat boiled vegetables and fruit juice during this whole week. At most one small meal should be eaten.

### WEEKS 2 THROUGH 6:

DIOCESAN RULES require fasting from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays (which we are supposed to do all year anyway).

TRADITIONAL RULES call for STRICT FAST (no meat, dairy, wine or oil products) *every weekday* during the Great Lenten Season, with some few exceptions which I note in the bulletin. On Saturdays and Sundays the Traditional Rules permit wine and oil. Meals should be limited to one a day.

*Wine and Oil* are also permitted on the following Feasts: Apr. 6 (Mar. 24) (*Pre-feast of the Annunciation*); Apr. 8 (Mar. 26) (*Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel*)

*Feast of Annunciation, Apr. 7 (March 25):* The fast is mitigated (lessened) this day because of the Great Feast. The Traditional Rules say you may eat fish, oil and dairy on this day. If you are not yet keeping the Traditional Fast, you may “step up” two

steps on this day. For instance, if you are fasting from meat and dairy only, you may eat meat.

*LENT ENDS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 11.*

**LAZARUS SATURDAY AND PALM SUNDAY** are days of rejoicing, and the Fast is mitigated (lessened) the same way as on *Annunciation* (see above).

**FOR HOLY WEEK:**

TRADITIONAL RULES call for STRICT FAST (no meat, dairy, wine or oil products) *every weekday* during the Holy Week, starting on Great Monday.

DIOCESAN RULES require the following for Holy Week: Monday through Thursday, no meat. Great Friday and Holy Saturday, STRICT FAST.

**BRIGHT WEEK:**

From Pascha through Thomas Sunday, there is *no fast* permitted, even on Wednesday or Friday, as we celebrate the great joy of our salvation in the Resurrection.

**DURING GREAT LENT:**

*EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM, AS MUCH AS YOU ARE ABLE.* PLEASE REMEMBER THAT TOGETHER WITH FASTING, WE ARE CALLED ESPECIALLY TO GIVE ALMS DURING THIS SEASON.

We are always called to grow in our spiritual life. With the Lenten Fast, we should be trying each year to be more and do more than we did last year. Here are a couple of ideas to get you started thinking:

- 1) Try fasting one more day a week than last year. For example, if you abstained from meat 2 days a week, go for 3 days this year.
- 2) Try fasting more on one or more days of the week. For example, if you abstained from meat 2 days a week, then abstain from meat and dairy both on those days.

By building up slowly, we become stronger spiritually. If we just do the same old thing we always did, we never exercise our spiritual muscles, and never grow in our faith and love for God.

*Please remember that the rules are given to us so that we may THINK about what we are doing, and not just go through the motions. Thinking*

*about it can lead us to praying about it, and hopefully enriching our life through the fast.*

**COMMUNION FASTING:**

For the reception of Holy Eucharist in the morning, we must fast from bed-time until we receive, as usual. To receive Holy Eucharist in the evening (for instance, at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts), we must fast for *at least 3 hours before the beginning of the service*. ESSENTIALLY, THIS MEANS NOT EATING AFTER LUNCH UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE EUCHARIST, IF POSSIBLE. Of course, those who are under a doctor's care or are infirm must follow the doctor's orders. If you have any question about this, please see me.

**PEOPLE STUFF**

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* Raymond White.

*Living:* Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary Chupron. Susan Danchak. Michael Danchak. Fr. George Dursa. Jada Eiden. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. 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.

*Altar Vigil Lights:* Memory of Kathryn Derenick - Jane Marie Naughton.

*Eternal Light:* Memory of Kathryn Derenick - Jane Marie Naughton.

*Eternal Memory:* Raymond White, husband of Barbara Dubyak White, fell asleep in the Lord Feb. 14, 2014. Although they lived in Maryland, they maintained their membership here at St. Nicholas. Services are as follows:

2 PM – 5 PM: *Viewing* today at Seminan's Funeral Home. *Panachida* will be celebrated at the beginning of the Viewing Hours.

Mon., 9:15 AM: *Panachida* at Funeral Home.  
10 AM: Funeral Service at St. Nicholas

The 40-Day Memorial will be on Sun., March 30.

Please pray for Barbara and their daughters Leslie & Georgia and all of their family.

### PARISH STUFF

#### Church School.

- All classes meet today.
- **Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** We meet this Tuesday, February 25 at 6 PM. We'll be talking about Liturgy again.

**Altar Society** meets Sunday, Mar. 2, immediately after Divine Liturgy.

**Maintenance Person still needed:** If you are interested, please see Jane Togher 570-842-3311.

**PIROHI MAKING & SALE:** There is a Pirohi Sale this Friday, to prepare for the beginning of Lent. *But, New Schedule!* Please read on.

When we first started this new system, I noted that we were trying things out and would adjust as necessary. The Parish Board talked about the Pirohi Project and how things were going, and decided to make some changes, especially regarding the work days. The one-day-a-week schedule was not working out as well as we had hoped, so the Board decided to go back to 2 days a week.

*This Week's Schedule (making 2 bags):*

*Tuesday, Feb. 25:* 6 AM Pirohi Prep

*Wednesday, Feb. 26:* 9 AM-ish Pirohi Making

As of right now, we are still planning on taking next week off. We will have to play it by ear after that, depending on how sales go. We'll try to let you know in enough time to plan.

Thanks to all of you who work so hard at this Fund Raiser for your ongoing support.

**Priests' Retreat:** In case you didn't hear, the retreat was canceled at the last minute. It is being rescheduled tentatively for Bright Week.

**Cheese-Fare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday)** is March 2. The Board opted to forego the "brunch." We will have a short Coffee Hour, and Forgiveness Vespers will begin as soon as we can get the church prepared for them. This first service of Lent is our opportunity as a parish to renew our Christian love and concern for each other, something we could

really use. I hope to see you here.

**Lenten Missions** - There will be 4 Missions this year. *Our parish* hosts the first one on *Sunday, March 16*. Vespers is at 3:00 PM and the usual Lenten dinner will be afterward.

Lenten Mission Schedule	
Scranton:	Sun., March 16 - Vespers @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Larry Preaching)
Dickson City:	Sunday, March 23 - Moleben to the Cross @ 3:00 p.m. - (Fr. Bob Preaching)
Freeland:	Sunday, March 30 - Paraklis @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Nik Preaching)
Nesquehon.:	Sunday, April 6 - Vespers @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Deacon Ted or Fr. Deacon Michael Azar preaching)

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

#### Sunday, February 16, 2014

\$ 498.00	General Collection
\$ 14.00	Eternal Light
\$ 90.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 34.00	Holy Days
\$ 990.00	Church Dues
\$ 89.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 8.00	Tapers
\$ 26.00	Vigil Lights
\$ 602.00	Pirohi
\$ 10.00	Decorated Candle
\$ 350.00	Memory of Stephen Roberts
<b>\$ 2711.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

**Financial Obligations:** The Parish Board wishes to remind all members what their financial obligations as members are:

The financial obligation of members for year 2014 is as follows: Minimum donation of \$1 per week or \$52.00 per year, St. Nicholas Dinner, plus church dues of \$90.00 per year. We are required to remit to the Diocese \$66.00/year, per member.

**Parish Board Minutes Hi-Lites.** At the Parish Annual Meeting this past fall, a request was made that the Board publish the minutes of the meetings, so that all would know what was being talked about. Here are the high-lights of the January 19 meeting:

- Nick Polanichka stated the profit from the St.

Nicholas Dinner was \$1105.04.

- Father Nik suggested we start early with the pirohi. Pirohi will be made every Wednesday and sold every other week. It will start Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The pirohi sales will be Fridays, noon to 4:30. Mary Brizinski will order the supplies and Jane Togher and Mary Brizinski will post the message on the answering machine.
- Father Nik will attend the Retreat at Camp Nazareth in February. The church will pay for his expenses.
- Father Nik will post a notice in the bulletin for a cleaning person.
- Father Nik is in the process of updating the website.

### FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

JOHNSTOWN, PA -- The Diocesan Chancery is pleased to announce that the on-line Orthodox Bible Study Class, hosted by St. Nicholas Orthodox Church of Warren, Ohio, will resume this coming Saturday, February 21, 2014 after a several week hiatus. The harsh winter weather caused water lines to burst which resulted in extensive water damage to the St. Nicholas Church complex and the internet broadcast system.

This study, which is currently in its eighth week, is focusing on the Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John. The class is led by Very Rev. Protopresbyter Kenneth Bachofsky, D. Min, Professor of Sacred Scripture at Christ the Saviour Seminary and Pastor of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Warren, Ohio. The class takes place on Saturday evenings from 4:45 - 5:45 pm and is streamed live on the internet.

The Gospel of St. John is being read and discussed within the context of the patristic mindset of the Church. Emphasis is placed on both the Gospel's historical context and application to contemporary life.

This year's course is the second in an ongoing series of Orthodox Scripture Studies. In the Spring of 2013, a large cadre of students, both on location at St. Nicholas Church and on-line completed an in-depth study of the Gospel of St. Matthew.

With the resumption of the class coming during the final week of preparation for Great Lent, all are cordially invited and encouraged to take part in the Bible study as part of their spiritual preparation for Pascha. There is no charge to take part.

If you cannot participate live, audio and video recordings of the lecture will be available on-line by the following Monday.

**PreLenten Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner** – Annual Pre-Lenten PORK & SAUERKRAUT/ KAPUSTA DINNER on Sunday, February 23, 2014, beginning at 12:30pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street. *Menu:* Adults \$13.00; Students \$6.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free. *Advance reservations required:* phone Dorothy Fleck at 570 346-4164 for reservations and for take-out info. Doors open at 11:30 AM.

**Myasopusna (Meat-fare Sunday) Celebration** – Transfiguration of Our Lord Church. Place: the church's banquet hall, at the corners of Bliss Street and Center Street, in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. on Sunday, February 23, 2014 from noon to 3:30 pm. Dinner (a platter of haluptsi, kobasa, varenyky, kapusta, borscht, blackbread and butter, and a homemade dessert) will be served from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. A variety of Ukrainian crafts, will be on display and available for sale or by raffle. This year's raffle features Ukrainian Easter hand-embroidered basket covers, and hand-made gerdany (Ukrainian necklaces). Following dinner, live entertainment will include the Holy Year Choir, Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, and the Saint Mary's Ukrainian Dancers. Dinner tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased by calling 570-735-4654 or 570-824-3880.

**Camp Nazareth – Looking Ahead for this summer:** The 2014 Schedule has been posted on the Camp's website - [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org). With all the necessary forms.

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.