

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 9, 2014

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun., Feb. 9 *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.* St. John Chrysostom.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Church School - Elementary Classes
Men's Club meets
- Tue., Feb. 11 Mar. Bishop Ignatius of Antioch.
Iconographer Andrew Rublev.
6:00 PM Adult Enrichment Group
- Wed., Feb. 12 *Feast of the Three Holy Bishops
Basil, John and Gregory*
6 AM *Pirohi Prep*
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Remembering Stephen Roberts
(Resch'd from Jan. 14)
10 AM-ish Pirohi Making
- Fri., Feb. 14 Nun Brigid of Kildare
Noon to 4:30 PM Pirohi Sale
- SAT., FEB. 15 ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH
SIMEON IN THE TEMPLE
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Blessing of
Candles
Remembering George Ferencz &
Paul Kovac
- Sun., Feb. 16 *Sunday of the Prodigal Son.* Synaxis
of the Prophets Simeon and Anna.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets
Parish Board Meets.

FEASTS AND FASTS

FEASTS:

Feast of the 3 Holy Bishops Basil, John and Gregory. This Wednesday, Feb. 12. Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD WITH SIMEON IN THE TEMPLE. This Saturday, Feb. 15. This Feast ends the Christmas cycle, as we celebrate the 40-day “churching” of Jesus in the Temple. On this day we bless candles, in remembrance of when Simeon called Jesus, “a Light of revelation to the Gentiles,” as he held Him in his arms. Divine Liturgy will be at 9 AM, with the blessing of Candles.

ALL-SOULS SATURDAYS: The first of the five All-Souls Saturday is on February 22. These days we especially pray for our deceased loved ones and the deceased of our parish. We are often enjoined by the Fathers of the Church to pray for the dead. If you do not remember them, who will?

If you would like to have your loved ones remembered, please fill out an envelope and include the list of your deceased. Please return these to Fr. Nik as soon as possible.

FASTS:

No Fasting: This week, the week of the Publican and Pharisee, Feb. 9 – 15, there is no fasting allowed as we continue our preparation for the celebration of the Great Fast.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

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.

Eternal Light: Memory of Anna Danchak - Susan Danchak

Panachida: Anna Danchak - Susan Danchak

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, February 2, 2014

\$ 318.00	General Collection
\$ 60.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 89.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 5.00	Holy Days
\$ 771.00	Pirohi
\$ 275.00	Memory of Stephen Roberts
\$ 10.00	Tapers
\$ 1528.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Church School.

- Elementary classes meet today Sunday, Feb. 9.
- **Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** We have moved these meetings to *Tuesdays*, so we will meet this Tuesday at 6 PM. Everyone is welcome. We will be meeting in the hall to accommodate everyone who would like to attend.

The **Altar Society** meeting was rescheduled for March 2, 2014.

Men's Club meets today.

Parish Board meets next Sunday.

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.

PIROHI MAKING: this Wednesday we will begin Pirohi Prep at 6 AM. Divine Liturgy is being celebrated for the Feast Day at 9 AM, and we will continue making pirohi after Liturgy.

PIROHI MAKING (WED)	PIROHI SALE (FRI)
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

Priests' Retreat: You will see on the monthly calendar that the Bishop has called for a priests' retreat in February at Camp Nazareth. I will be there for those days, as well as most of the other clergy in the diocese. In case of an emergency, please call my cell phone.

PARISH STUFF – LOOKING AHEAD...

Cheese-Fare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday) is March 2. As in past years, we would like to plan a *Parish Brunch*, followed by *Forgiveness Vespers* to start our celebration of Lent off right. More info soon.

Lenten Missions - I just received word that there will be only 4 Missions this year. *Our parish* will host the first one on *Sunday, March 16*, with Vespers at 3:00 PM and the usual Lenten dinner afterward. Let's start clearing our calendars.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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!

PreLenten Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner – Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Scranton PA, cordially invite you to join us for our 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:* Slow roasted pork loin, homemade pan gravy, Ukrainian kapusta (sweet and sour cabbage), real mashed potatoes, vegetable, applesauce, rolls, butter, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages. Adults \$13.00; Students \$6.00 (age 6-12); Age 5 and under free. *Advance reservations required:* phone Dorothy Fleck at 570 346-4164 (please do not call the church). Takeouts available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Doors open at 11:30am. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing. Welcome to our table!

Myasopusna (Meat-fare Sunday) Celebration – Dinner tickets are now available for Transfiguration of Our Lord Church's Myasopusna festival, held at the church's banquet hall, in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, February 23, 2014 from noon to 3:30 pm. The Myasopusna (Meatfare) festival is the parish's annual preLenten celebration, preceding the Lenten Great Fast. 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, including pysanky, embroidery, woodcrafts, beadwork, and ceramics, will be on display and available for sale or by raffle. This year's raffle features Ukrainian Easter basket covers,

hand-embroidered by parishioner Anna Kutsup, and gerdany (Ukrainian necklaces), hand-beaded by the Milinichik sisters of Allentown. 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, with an advanced ticket price of \$12, if purchased by February 10. The church hall is located at the corners of Bliss Street and Center Street, in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. 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. With all the necessary forms.

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.

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: The camp is looking for young folks who are interested in working at the following job openings: 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.

THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON IN
THE TEMPLE

February 2/15

Adapted from OCA.org

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the

God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

The events of that day are recounted in the Gospel which is read on that day, Luke 2:22-40.

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: St Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; St Cosmas Bishop of Maium, St John of Damascus, and St Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and St Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below. A similar icon, "Of the Seven Swords" (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right. The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: "a sword shall pierce through your own soul" (Luke 2:35).