

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 23, 2014

### Veneration of the Holy & Life-Giving Cross

#### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 23 *The Veneration of the Holy Cross.*  
9:00 AM Holy Confession  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets  
Church School - All Classes meet  
3:00 PM Deanery Mission: St. Mary's, Dickson  
City - Moleben to the Holy Cross

Tue., Mar. 25 Symeon the New Theologian  
6:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Wed., Mar. 26 Archbishop Nicephoros.  
8:30 AM-ish *Pirohi Making*  
5:30 PM Holy Confession  
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Fri., Mar. 28 Martyr Agapius et al.  
5:30 PM Holy Confession  
6:00 PM Paraklis

SAT., MAR. 29 4<sup>TH</sup> ALL-SOULS SATURDAY.  
8:30 AM Holy Confession  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Hramoty

Sun., Mar. 30 Monk John Climacus. Bishop Patrick  
of Ireland.  
9:00 AM Holy Confession  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets  
3:00 PM Deanery Mission: St. John's,  
Nesquehoning. Lenten Vespers

**Holy Mystery of Confession:** I will be available for Confessions for 15 minutes or so before all services during Lent.

**4th All-Souls Saturday** is this coming Saturday. The reading of the lists of the deceased (Hramoty) will be at 9 AM, celebrated either with Divine Liturgy or a Parastas.

#### THE LENTEN FAST

##### 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.

##### FOOD BANK DURING GREAT LENT:

*EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM, AS MUCH AS YOU ARE ABLE.* Please remember that we are also called to almsgiving during Lent: WHAT WE TAKE FROM OURSELVES IS TO GO TO OTHERS IN NEED.

So, as we did at Christmas time, we are taking up a food collection for Easter to support the local Food Bank, *Bread Basket of NEPA*. Please bring in canned and dry goods (like the last time) to the hall where there are baskets to receive them.

Also, there will be a Special Collection at Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 13, which will also go to the local Food Bank. We ask for your generosity in this endeavor.

**COMMUNION FASTING:**

To receive the Holy Eucharist in the morning, fast from bed-time until we receive, as usual. To receive Holy Eucharist in the evening, fast for *at least 3 hours before the beginning of the service*. If possible, do not eat or drink after Lunch until you receive the Eucharist. Those who are under a doctor's care must follow the doctor's orders. Questions? See Fr. Nik.

**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. Benjamin Groves III. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Mildred Orzolek. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Jeff Thomas. William Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Fr. Donald Valasek. Gary 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 Michael Toth by family.

**Thank you!** Bill and Beverly Thomas wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and thoughtfulness as Bill has been recuperating from his surgery.

**PARISH STUFF**

**Church School.**

- All Classes meet today.
- **Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** Next meeting is Tue., April 1, at 6 PM.

**Spaghetti Dinner!** Hosted by the Men's Club. Sunday, April 27, beginning at Noon. More info on the way.

**Pirohi Making & Sale:** *Next Sale will be Friday, March 28.* We are planning to make the usual 2 bags that week. After that sale is over, we will figure out how much to make for the last sale on April 11.

**Donation List** - The Parish Board is trying to put together a list of the items donated by our parishioners for the church over the years. Unfortunately, the parish records are hit-and-miss about this. So, we are asking you all to help us get our information up to date. There is a form in the hall where folks can items they donated, who donated it (and the approximate year it was donated). We appreciate your help in this effort.

**Lenten Missions** - See schedule in box.

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

**ACRY Meeting: Reorganize? Or Not?** Sunday, May 4, after Divine Liturgy, there will be a meeting in the hall. As you all know, the parish's ACRY chapter has been rather moribund for the past few years. This meeting is being called for all former, present, and potential members of the ACRY. All are asked to attend this very important, but brief meeting. There will be only one question on the agenda: Should the local chapter of the ACRY reorganize or should it officially disband? All are asked to carefully consider this question and respond at the meeting.

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH**

**Sunday, March 16, 2014**

\$ 369.00	General Collection
\$ 72.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 10.00	Altar Vigil Lights
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 81.00	Maintenance and Repairs
\$ 26.00	Tapers
\$ 1743.00	Pirohi
<b>\$ 2308.09</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

### CAMP NAZARETH ANNUAL FAMILY DAY SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014 (see flyer in hall)

Fellowship & fun all day! Music entertainment, swimming, craft activities, games and the Raffle Drawing. 10am -- DIVINE LITURGY. Lunch/Picnic following Liturgy. MENU: Holupki, Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes, String Bean Casserole, Tossed Salad, Roll, Homemade Desserts, Drinks. Vegetarian Option: Vegetable Primavera. ADULTS: \$10.00. Children under 13 : \$6.00. Children under 5: free. FAMILY PRICE: \$30.00 (includes 2 parents & all children under age 13)

**CAMP NAZARETH FAMILY CAMP MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2014.** *Packets with information and registration forms are available in the hall by the door.:* “Putting on Christ in Your Home” What does it mean for Families to “Put on Christ”? What does the Family who has “Put on Christ” look like? Come with your Family and help your family to grow in Christ and deepen your relationship with one another! Visit [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org), email [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org) or call the Camp at 724-662-4840 for registration information.

**St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Center**, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. presents their INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB on Thursday, April 10, 2014 with 5:30 and 6:30 seatings at ONLY \$20.00 per person. Please call 570-343-5151. The Menu will start with a Mandarin Salad (Mixed Greens with Slivered Almonds and Mandarin Oranges, topped with a Sesame Dressing. The Appetizer is a Roasted Pork served with Spicy Onion Slaw. The entree is a Vegetarian Sushi Roll and Fried Rice topped with Honey Chicken and Garlic Ginger Green Beans. The dessert will be Sake Oranges and Cream with Sesame Brittle. Reservations requested by April 7th.

**The 3rd Annual Meatless Meal for Lent "Baked Haddock Fish Dinner"** sponsored by Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA on Friday, April 11, 2014. It will be held at The REGAL ROOM, 216 Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant, PA. Starting at 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Pre-sold tickets are \$13.00 per person/dinner. You can "Sit In or Take Out" The dinner will included, baked haddock, potato vegetable, cole claw, roll, dessert

with coffee or tea. At the door, a limited amount of tickets will be \$15.00 per dinner. Call Sandra at 570-383-9487 for reservations before Monday April 7th, 2014. Rev. Nestor Iwasiw is Pastor. Websites: <http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com>

### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

*from [http://lent.goarch.org/sunday\\_of\\_the\\_cross](http://lent.goarch.org/sunday_of_the_cross)*

#### INTRODUCTION

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers "planted" on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal

#### ICONS OF THE COMMEMORATION

The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Veneration of the Cross on September 14.

In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

### MID-LENT: THE HOLY CROSS

*Excerpt from Great Lent, by Alexander Schmemmann, Downloaded from [w.antiochian.org/great-lent-excerpts/mid-lent](http://w.antiochian.org/great-lent-excerpts/mid-lent)*

The third Sunday of Lent is called "The Veneration of the Cross." At the Vigil of that day, after the Great Doxology, the Cross is brought in a solemn procession to the center of the church and remains there for the entire week-- with a special rite of veneration following each service. It is noteworthy that the theme of the Cross which dominates the hymnology of that Sunday is developed in terms not of suffering but of victory and joy. More than that, the theme-songs (hirmoi) of the Sunday Canon are taken from the Paschal Service-- "The Day of the Resurrection"-- and the Canon is a paraphrase of the Easter Canon.

The meaning of all this is clear. We are in Mid-Lent. One the one hand, the physical and spiritual effort, if it is serious and consistent, begins to be felt, its burden becomes more burdensome, our fatigue more evident. We need help and encouragement. On the other hand, having endured this fatigue, having climbed the mountain up to this point, we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage, and the rays of Easter grow in their intensity. Lent is our self-crucifixion, our experience, limited as it is, of Christ's commandment heard in the Gospel lesson of that Sunday: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). But we cannot take up our cross and follow Christ unless we have His Cross which He took up in order to save us. It is His Cross, not ours, that saves us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others.