

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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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

March 9, 2014

Sunday of Orthodoxy

1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 9 *Sunday of Orthodoxy. 1st & 2nd*
Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist

9:00 AM Holy Confession

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Church School - Elementary Classes

Tue., Mar. 11 Great-martyr Photine the Samaritan
Woman.

6:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Wed., Mar. 12 Confessor Procopius the Decapolite.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

5:30 PM Holy Confession

6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Fri., Mar. 14 Martyred Nun Eudoxia

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM *Pirohi Sale*

5:30 PM Holy Confession

6:00 PM Paraklis

SAT., MAR. 15 2ND ALL-SOULS SATURDAY. Martyred
Bishop Theodotus

8:30 AM Holy Confession

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Hramoty

Sun., Mar. 16 Archbishop Gregory Palamas of
Thessalonika

9:00 AM Holy Confession

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Parish Board Meets

3:00 PM Deanery Mission: Lenten Vespers
Lenten Supper and Fellowship

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

2nd All-Souls Saturday is this coming Saturday.
Divine Liturgy and the reading of the lists of the
deceased (Hramoty) will be at 9 AM. If you have not
had a chance to get your list in, please get it to Fr. Nik
as soon as you can.

THE LENTEN FAST

Since I have already published the entire Fasting
Schedule for Lent, I will be merely repeating the
current week's rules each Sunday.

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.

Panachida: Charles & Susan Balisen - by family

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, March 2, 2014

\$ 284.00	General Collection
\$ 75.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 67.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 987.00	Pirohi
\$ 6.00	Tapers
\$ 1509.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Church School.

- Elementary Classes meet next week.
- **Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for *Tue., March 18*, at 6 PM.

Men's Club meets today, Mar. 9.

Parish Board meets next Sunday, Mar. 16/

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

PIROHI MAKING & SALE: *This Tuesday, 3/11, 6 AM* Pirohi Prep. *This Wed., 3/12, 8 AM-ish* Pirohi Making. *Fri., 3/14, 10 AM - 4 PM* Pirohi Sale.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers: Holy Resurrection Cathedral (OCA), 591 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre, invites all to celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy at 4:00 PM today, March 9. Fr. Steven Voytovich, Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, will be the guest homilist. A light meal will be offered after the service.

Lenten Missions - There will be 4 Missions this year. *Our parish* hosts the first one *next Sunday, March 16*. Vespers is at 3:00 PM and the usual Lenten dinner will be afterward. Please note there is a change in the schedule. Below is the new schedule.

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)
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)

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Orthodox Bible Study Class: The Diocesan Chancery is pleased to announce that the on-line Orthodox Bible Study Class, hosted by St. Nicholas Orthodox Church of Warren, Ohio, began February 21, 2014 after a several week hiatus.

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. Get on the Diocesan website, www.acrod.org, and click on the Bible Study. If you cannot participate live, audio and video recordings of the lecture will be available on-line by the following Monday.

International Dinner Club: St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. is having their *International Dinner Club* on Thursday, March 14, 2014. The price is only \$20.00 per person. Ireland is featured this month with a Galbally Split Pea with Ham Soup, Emerald Isle Spring Mix Salad, and an entrée of Tender Roasted Corned Beef, thinly sliced and served over bacon and cabbage with cheddar potato gratin and honey glazed baby carrots. The dessert will be Jameson Whiskey Parfait. You may also want to have an Irish Coffee for only \$5.00. Please call for reservations at 570-343-5151 and choose a seating for 5:30 or 6:30pm. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a flare and join us for a gourmet Irish dinner.

How to Make Pysanky Class: Saint Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa. for the 4th year is offering classes in *How to Make Pysanky* (The Traditional Ukrainian Easter Eggs) at the Parish Hall. *Only one class is sufficient to LEARN HOW TO MAKE PYSANKY and then it just take practice, practice, practice!!!!*

Open to adults and children. An adult must accompany the children age 9-12.

Place: SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church PARISH HALL. 207 River Street, Olyphant, Pa.. Free Parking.

Dates: 4 Sundays are available: , March 16, March 23, March 30 and April 6th, 2014.

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Please plan to arrive at 1:45 p.m.) *Cost:* \$15.00 per person/class (Includes Egg, bees wax and stylist).

Limited Seating only 25 people per class.

Contact: Lauren Telep for reservations ASAP at 570-383-0319.

At the Parish Hall, the following items will be available for purchase: Pysanky eggs, supplies and books on Pysanky's, The American-Ukrainian Cook-Books \$25.00 per set, "Christmas In Ukraine" Book from World Book-all about the Ukrainian Customs for Christmas at \$15.00 each, the DVD at

\$5.00 each from the 125th Anniversary will be available for purchase and the CD's from the Choir for Easter and Christmas. Photo of Pysanky are done by St. Cyril's Parishioner Joyce Krisanda Garofalo, with years of experience in making pysanky's for Easter.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church is sponsoring a "Baked Haddock Fish Dinner-Meatless Meal for Lent" on April 11, 2014.

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>

PATRIARCHAL CATECHETICAL HOMILY ON THE OCCASION OF THE BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

+ BARTHOLOMEW, By God's Mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the Plenitude of the Church:

Grace and Peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

And Prayers, Blessings and Forgiveness from us

"Behold, now is the favorable time, now is the time of salvation." (2 Cor. 6.2)

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Our Orthodox Church recommends that, during this period of Great Lent, we focus our attention toward sincere repentance, "the melting pot of sin," according to St. John Chrysostom. Repentance is the first topic of our Lord Jesus Christ's preaching and the very essence of the Christian teaching. It is the Church's daily invitation to us all.

Despite this, many of us have not truly experienced repentance. We sometimes feel that it does not concern us personally because we have not "come to

ourselves” in order to comprehend and contemplate how we may have committed any sin. However, as we are taught by the wise teacher of the spiritual life, Abba Isaac the Syrian, and as most of the Church Fathers proclaim through experience, “repentance is necessary even for the perfect.” This is because repentance does not merely signify remorse for our sins and the consequent decision no longer to repeat them, but it also implies a change of our attitudes toward what is better so that we acquire constant improvement before God and the world, as well as continuous increase in love and humility, purification and peace.

In this sense, repentance is an unending journey toward divine perfection, to which we must at all times aim and move. Indeed, since God’s perfection is boundless, our way toward its likeness must also be boundless and endless. There is always a level of perfection beyond what we have achieved, and so we must constantly seek spiritual progress and transformation, as urged by St. Paul, who ascended to the third heaven and beheld the ineffable mysteries: “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor. 3.18)

The more our internal world is cleansed, the more our spiritual eye is purified, the more clearly we see ourselves and everything around us. Moreover, this change – namely, the improvement in our vision of the reality of this world and the spiritual condition of ourselves – is precisely what repentance is all about. Repentance is a renewed and improved state of spirit, of the condition where we presently find ourselves. Accordingly, then, repentance is the fundamental presupposition of spiritual progress and of acquiring likeness toward God.

In order, of course, for repentance to be genuine, it must also be accompanied by the appropriate fruits, especially forgiveness of and charity toward others. The basic criterion of sincere repentance is that our heart is moved toward acceptance of our fellow human beings and response to their needs as much as we can. After all, the way of repentance is recognition and confession of our sins, no longer holding grudges against others, praying with warmth and integrity, as well as mercifulness, humility, love toward all people, victory of good over evil, avoiding vainglory and

arrogance, which immediately withers away everything.

This struggle within our soul is revealed in “the difference between the publican and the Pharisee . . .,” which is an invitation to “despise the proud voice of the latter, while envying the contrite prayer of the former,” even as we fervently pray with tears “that God may take pity on us sinners and have mercy on us.”

The period of Great Lent that is upon us is an opportunity, in the midst of a widespread and global financial crisis, to demonstrate our material and spiritual assistance toward other people. When we act charitably and manifest our repentance in practice – moving from an individualistic and pharisaic way of life to a collective and altruistic way of life, like the publican – then we shall realize the great benefit of repentance and conversion, while also experiencing repentance as a vital transition from the sin of self-centeredness and vainglory to the virtue of love, “aspiring to the humility and attitude of the publican, who deserved God’s mercy.”

From the Patriarchal Throne of St. John Chrysostom, who both preached and practiced such repentance, as we enter this salvific period of purification of heart and soul in order to welcome the Passion, Cross, Burial and Resurrection of our Lord, not just in rituals and words but also in practice and experience, we too as his unworthy successor urge, entreat and beseech you: “Acquire repentance by becoming new people, by renouncing the old nature of sinfulness and acquiring newness of life . . . For that is where the fullness of divine grace lies.”

Behold, then, beloved brothers and sisters, a favorable time “of mourning” opens up before us, an arena of vigilance and discipline, so that “before the theater of this life passes, we may care for our salvation” with sincere and tangible repentance for all “our sins, wrongdoings, and injustices . . . without adhering to or doing what we have been commanded” by the Lord, so that Christ our God, “who is present everywhere and fills all things, may care for us” in His great and inscrutable mercy.

May His saving grace be with you all.

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople, Fervent supplicant for all before God