

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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April 6, 2014

5th Sunday of Lent

Pre-Festive of the Annunciation

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Apr. 6 *Pre-festive of the Annunciation.*
9:00 AM Holy Confession
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Church School - Elementary
Altar Society meets
3:00 PM Deanery Mission: St. Michael's,
Freeland. Paraklis

MON., APR. 7 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION TO
HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS
5:30 PM Holy Confession
6:00 PM Vespers and the Divine Liturgy

Tue., Apr. 8 Leave-taking of the Annunciation.
Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel.
6:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Wed., Apr. 9 Nun Matrona of Thessalonica
8:00 AM *ish Pirohi Making*
5:30 PM Holy Confession
6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy

Fri., Apr. 11 Martyred Monk Mark Arthusa
Last Day of Lent
Pirohi Sale
No Services Today

SAT., APR. 12 LAZARUS SATURDAY.
8:30 AM Holy Confession
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 186-187

SUN., APR. 13 PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY
9:00 AM Holy Confession
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 188-192

Holy Mystery of Confession: Before services during Lent. See Parish Calendar.

THE LENTEN FAST

THIS WEEK IS THE LAST WEEK OF LENT:

Meals should be limited to one a day.

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) this week *except*:

1. Today, Apr. 6 (March 24), *wine and oil* permitted because it is Sunday and also the Pre-Feast of the Annunciation.
2. Tomorrow is the *Great 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 wine 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.
3. Tuesday, Apr. 8 (Mar. 26) (*Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel*) *wine and oil* are permitted.
4. **LENT ENDS THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 11.**
5. **LAZARUS SATURDAY & PALM SUNDAY** are days of rejoicing, and the Fast is mitigated (lessened) the same way as on *Annunciation* (see #2 above).

FOR HOLY WEEK:

TRADITIONAL RULES call for STRICT FAST (no meat, dairy, wine or oil products) *every weekday*

during the Holy Week, Monday through Saturday. Note that this is the only Saturday of the year on which oil is not permitted (which is why there is no mirovanije at Liturgy on Pascha).

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

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:

The *Food Collection* in the hall ends *next Sunday*, Palm Sunday. Please remember to bring in canned and dry goods.

A *Special Collection* will taken at Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday.

Both collections will go to the local Food Bank, *Bread Basket of NEPA*. All are encouraged to be as generous as possible.

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:

Living: Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Mary Chupron. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. 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 Tigie. 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.

Altar Vigil Candles: Health of Bill, Jeff, Beverley Thomas and family by John & Donna Shimo

PARISH STUFF

Church School.

- Elementary Classes meet today.
- **Adult Enrichment Gatherings:** We are taking a break until Fall. It was encouraging to see folks participate in this gathering throughout the Fall and Winter. We hope to see more people taking advantage of this opportunity next fall.

Thanks & God Bless! To those who came to clean the church yesterday in preparation for Easter.

Pirohi Making & Sale: This week is *The Last Sale of the Season!* We will make *only the usual two bags on this Tuesday and Wednesday*. See the Parish Calendar.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt! The children of the parish are invited to the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April, 20, after Divine Liturgy. Sponsored by the Men's Club.

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

New Paschal Candle: We needed a new Paschal Candle to replace the existing one, which is so broken as to be unfixable. *Thanks and God Bless and Many Years! To Betty Davies*, who donated a new candle in memory of the Pivovarnik family. The new candle will be blessed today at the Divine Liturgy.

Donation List - We have been getting some information in bits and dribbles. Please give us a hand with this endeavor. Please use the form in the hall to list

1. items donated,
2. who donated it,
3. the approximate year it was donated,
4. and who the donation commemorated (if anyone).

We appreciate your help in this effort.

Lenten Missions - Today is the Last Lenten Mission: St. Michael's in Freeland: Paraklis @ 3:00 p.m. (Fr. Nik 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.

Camp Nazareth Family Day Raffle Tickets are now available for purchase. The main Prize is (NOT \$20,000 as reported in last week's bulletin) and the cost is \$20 per ticket. We have sold out our original allotment but getting more tickets. See Nick Polanichka if you want some.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, March 30, 2014

\$ 611.00	General Collection
\$ 76.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 1845.00	Pirohi
\$ 7.00	Holy Days
\$ 270.00	Church Dues
\$ 10.00	Vigil Light
\$ 27.00	Tapers
\$ 200.00	Donation
\$ 3046.00	Total Collection

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.:* Visit campnazareth.org, email campnazareth@acrod.org or call the Camp at 724-662-4840 for registration information.

Ham Bingo - sponsored by St. Nicholas Church, 140 Church St. in Old Forge on April 6th. Admission is \$3.00. Doors open at 11:00am; Games start at 1:00pm. Food and Refreshments and a Bake Sale!

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>

St. John's Auxiliary, 310 Broadway, Scranton, Pa. will have a **Potato Pancake and Sausage/Pepper Sandwich Sale** on Friday, April 25, 2014. Pancakes - \$1.00each and Sandwiches -\$5.00 each. Deadline for pre-orders is Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Pick up time is 12:30pm on the 25th while supply lasts. Phone 570-343-8820 to order.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

From OCA.org.

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during Great Lent.

The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as "good tidings." This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of St Luke (1:26-38). The troparion describes this as the "beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery," for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of St Basil, as well: "When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself."

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to St Joseph: "Hail, thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34).

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath

also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1: 35-38)."

In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, St Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that "the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world." He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God's will, but also involves the Virgin's free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God's will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven. In a famous icon from Sinai, a white dove is shown in the ray of light.

There are several famous icons of the Annunciation. One is in the Moscow Kremlin in the church of the Annunciation. This icon appeared in connection with the rescue of a prisoner by the Mother of God during the reign of Ivan the Terrible. Another is to be found in the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow (July 8). It was originally located in Ustiug, and was the icon before which St Procopius the fool (July 8) prayed to save the city from destruction in 1290. One of the most highly revered icons in Greece is the Tinos icon of the Annunciation (January 30).

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of St Basil or St John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).