

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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April 20, 2014

PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., April 20 **PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Sheet

Blessing of Baskets

Easter Egg Hunt for the kiddies

Mon., April 21 **BRIGHT MONDAY.**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Easter Procession

Sat., Apr. 26 **BRIGHT SATURDAY**

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Closing of the Iconostasis Doors.

Sun., Apr. 27 **THOMAS SUNDAY.**

9:30 Divine Liturgy - Special Sheet

Noon Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Men's Club

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

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.

BRIGHT MONDAY AND BRIGHT WEEK: All of Bright Week is a continuation of the celebration on Sunday. The services for these days are almost exactly like Sunday, resulting in a "week of Sundays". The Easter Procession taken at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Monday is the oldest of the Easter Processions, pre-

dating both the Great Friday Procession and the Procession at Resurrection Matins. On Bright Saturday, we close the doors of the Iconostas, signaling the end of the "Week of Sundays" and the beginning of the extended Paschal season.

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 Tigue. Fr. Donald Valasek. Gary Wassel. Julia Worobey.

At Home: Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. George & Anna Senich. Kathryn Stocoski.

Assisted Living Homes: Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

Eternal Light: Memory of Donald Naglak by Delores Naglak.

PARISH STUFF

Millie Orzolek would like to thank everyone who sent cards, offered prayers and well wishes following her recent surgery.

Collection for the Bread Basket of NEPA. Five boxes of food and a check in the amount of \$140 were

delivered to The Breadbasket of Northeastern PA on Wednesday. Our donations were very much appreciated and needed. During the Spring and Summer months the supply of food and funds are low, but The Breadbasket continues to supply families with food all year long. The workers thanked the parishioners of St. Nicholas Church for the continued support of a much needed service to the struggling families of northeastern Pa.

Church School. Next scheduled classes are in May.

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

Spaghetti Dinner! Hosted by the Men's Club next Sunday, April 27, beginning at Noon. For tickets see a member of the Men's Club.

Thanks and God Bless to all of you who have remembered me in your prayers, cards and gifts during this Paschal season. Many years!

Donation List Updated - The List in the hall has the information that I have received to date. Please make sure you add anything else we have missed. We appreciate your help in this effort.

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 \$10,000 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, April 13, 2014

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| \$ 365.80 | General Collection |
| \$ 99.00 | 7 Day Lights |
| \$ 7.00 | Eternal Light |
| \$ 6.00 | 1 st Sunday |
| \$ 25.00 | Church Dues |

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|-------------------|-------------------------|
| \$ 37.00 | Holy Days |
| \$ 2728.00 | Pirohi |
| \$ 140.00 | Bread Basket of NEPA |
| \$ 20.00 | Tapers |
| \$ 35.00 | Easter Flowers |
| \$ 105.00 | Easter |
| \$ 252.00 | Palm Sunday |
| \$ 89.00 | Patriarchal Pence |
| \$ 3908.80 | Total Collection |

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

St. Michael's 4th Annual International Children's Classic Golf Tournament. On Saturday, May 10th, St. Michael's is pleased to host the Fourth Annual International Children's Classic at Endwell Greens Golf Club. The captain and crew golf tournament is scheduled for a shotgun start at Noon. The cost is \$100 per participant or \$400 per foursome. The registration fee includes 18 holes of golf and two carts per team. Beverages will be provided for participants on the course. A dinner is to immediately follow the tournament at the golf course.

All net proceeds from this event will again be divided between the St. Nicholas Children's Home in Medzilaborce, Slovakia, Holy Cross Orphanage and the Regional Medical Center's Children's Wing both located in Uzhgorod, Ukraine. As in the past, this outreach will impact the lives of many needy children and be the source of many blessings.

Men and women golfers are encouraged to enter the competition and mixed teams are also encouraged to participate. Prizes will be awarded to the tournaments 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. Men's and ladies' longest drive, and both men's and women's closest to the pin contests will receive awards. Once again, we will be offering Hole-in-one prizes. All golfers will receive a commemorative gift and team photo.

We are also proud to announce that once again, George Skomsky PGA, of the International Golf School will be hosting a putting contest open to all participants at 11 AM.

Individuals who don't play golf but wish to support the tournament may purchase a \$25 dinner ticket. The price includes dinner with the players following the competition and entry into the door prize contest.

We look forward to your participation and support.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. James S. Dutko

[Information and forms for this event are in the hall]

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.

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 Easter Basket

In many Orthodox countries, traditional meals developed around the great Feasts of the Church. This is especially true for the Feast of Feasts, the holy Resurrection of Our Lord. Eating and sharing a special meal for this day has many meanings and reasons.

First, meals are usually the focus of any celebration, making it both solemn and 'official' and also happy and joyous. Think about wedding receptions, birthday parties, even Fourth-of-July back-yard barbecues. Certain foods make an occasion something truly special.

Second, the celebration of the Resurrection (Pascha) comes at the end of a long winter, a long and often arduous Fast. It is a time of spring, of new life, both on earth and in heaven. People are ready to be happy, joyful and celebrate with all the foods that they could not eat during the Fast. With our Lord's rising from the dead, we are ready to celebrate with Him our new freedom from the flesh by enjoying the good things He has given us in this life - first He gives us his own heavenly Flesh and Blood in Holy Communion, then we partake of the good things of this earth in the Easter meal.

Third, this connection of the Easter meal with Holy Communion is emphasized by bringing that meal to the Church on Sunday morning to be blessed immediately after we celebrate Divine Liturgy. It is almost like being able to take a little bit of heaven back home with us, so that we can continue the joyful party that we began in Church when we sang for the first time, "CHRIST IS RISEN!"

Last, the meal is all pre-prepared and often eaten cold on Sunday. It is fitting that everyone should celebrate this most joyful day, even the family cook, not being burdened with "the things of hospitality," as Martha was when Jesus came to visit, but rather that *everyone* should be able to "choose the better part" like Mary did, and celebrate with Jesus (see Luke 10:38-42).

Different cultures and locales developed different traditional foods to have blessed and eaten on Easter, but there are a few general 'rules.' All Easter meals consist of the kinds of food that we could not eat during Lent, and also some other foods that were available in early spring before the summer gardens could be harvested. Often times specific meanings are given to different foods, symbolic of our Life in Christ. Below are listed the different categories of food usually put in the Easter Basket, along with descriptions of the foods usually used in the Slavic countries.

One last note: A blessed Easter Basket with a special meal is the most important idea here. If one or more of the traditional foods do not appeal to you, feel free to substitute! What is important is that we celebrate the goodness that God has given us, both in Church and at home, first in the life He gives us on this earth, and then in the Life He gives us forever in his Resurrection - so ENJOY!

BREAD - the "staff of life" and represents the Body of Christ in our midst. Special Easter Breads, often called "Pascha" are usually sweet and rich, as when we sing Psalm 33: "Taste and see how good the Lord is!" In some traditions, a red Easter egg is baked into the middle of the bread, symbol of the Resurrection. The bread is also often decorated with a cross, a braided crown, an X B (Christ is Risen in Slavonic), or other decorations.

MEAT - In Slavic countries, usually smoked meats like ham, bacon and kolbasa are used. Also popular are spring lamb and veal. Meat represents God's favor, generosity and the richness of life He gives us freely.

CHEESE - The rather bland, sweet taste of cheese represents the *moderation* that all Christians are called to have in all things. Rusyny and Slovaks make a "cheese ball" known as *hrutka* or *sirek*, which is actually made out of eggs. Also popular are *sirnaya pascha*, a sweet cream cheese, and other soft cheese such as farmer's cheese or feta.

EGGS - Eggs are always a symbol of the resurrection - a sign of New Life. As an egg hatches, so Christ broke out of the Tomb to give us eternal life. The eggs are hard-boiled and are often decorated, or at least colored.

BUTTER - often is shaped into a figure of a Lamb or a Cross. It reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

PRESERVES - In Slavic traditions, usually grated horseradish mixed with some grated beets. Symbolic of the *Passion, sufferings and death* of Our Lord which He willingly went through for our salvation, so that we could celebrate this glorious resurrection. Olives (symbol of the *peace* of Our Lord) and other preserves are also used.

SALT - "You are the salt of the earth," Our Lord tells us. Salt reminds us of our duty toward other Christians and toward the world - to flavor it with the good news of salvation.

All the food (or at least a portion of each, but you have to bring the whole Easter bread) is placed into a large wicker basket, which is itself often decorated. A blessed candle (symbol of the Light of Christ) is also put into the basket and lit at the time of blessing in church. The basket is covered with a white cloth (symbol of the burial linens Our Lord left behind when He rose); this cloth is also often highly decorated.

We encourage everyone to make your own celebration of Easter a little more special by having your Easter meal blessed and made part of the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord!

Pascha

The English word "Easter" is not a biblical word. It is thought to be a translation of the name of the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, "Eostre". In any case, it is an English word which is used today to translate the Greek term "**Pascha**", which translates the Hebrew word '**Pesach**' which literally means '**Passover**'. The Christian Church transformed the Jewish Passover, which commemorated the freeing of the Hebrew people from Egyptian bondage into a feast which commemorated the death and resurrection of Christ which freed humanity from the bondage of death, sin and evil.

We do not have a command from Jesus to celebrate the Paschal Feast. But the Bible clearly indicates the New Testament belief that Christ is the **New Pascha** for believers in Him, and that this is to be celebrated by Christians:

"For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival..."(1 Corinthians 5:7).

Thus the celebration of Christ's Resurrection became the first Christian Feast—the **Christian Pascha**.

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| Christ Is Risen! | Christos Voskrese! | Christos Anesti! | Feltamadt Krisztus | Al Massih Kam! |
| Indeed He Is Risen! | Vo Istinu Voskrese! | Alithos Anesti! | Valoban Felta- madott! | Hakkan Kam! |