

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 4.4

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

April 27, 2014

THOMAS SUNDAY

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Apr. 27 THOMAS SUNDAY.
9:30 Divine Liturgy - pp. 199-200
Noon Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Men's Club

Sun., May 4 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women
9:30 Divine Liturgy - pp. 200-201
ACRY Re-organization meeting
Altar Society meeting.
Church School - Elementary Classes

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Beginning today, we return to the normal weekly fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays.

ST. GEORGE THE GREAT-MARTYR: Tuesday, May 6.
Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

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. Russell Spilka. 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.

Assisted Living Homes: Michael Besket. Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, April 20, 2014

\$ 540.00	General Collection
\$ 187.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 20.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 303.00	Holy Days
\$ 23.00	Tapers
\$ 5.00	Easter Flowers
\$ 1440.00	Easter
\$ 100.00	Palm Sunday
\$ 2618.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Church School. Next scheduled classes are next Sunday, May 4, for the Elementary Classes.

Spaghetti Dinner! Today! beginning at Noon. For tickets see a member of the Men's Club.

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? Next 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. See Nick Polanichka if you want some.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Center presents "GREECE" at Their INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB on Thursday, May 8, 2014 with 5:30 and 6:30pm seatings. The price is \$20.00 per person and the deadline for reservations is May 5th. Please call: 570-343-5151. You will start your dining experience with a Soup Course of Fussolatha Soup (Traditional Greek White Bean Soup) and the Appetizer will be Spanikopita (Phyllo dough filled with Spinach and Feta Cheese). The Entree will be Moussaka (Beef and Eggplant casserole topped with Bechamel sauce and served with Hortavrasta. To finish the night, we have a wonderful Homemade Baklava. Dine out on Gourmet Greek Cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere.

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.

Concert: A Tribute to Johnny Richards. The "Upper Valley Winds" Founder and conductor Patrick J. Marcinko Jr. (Maestro of the Choir of SS. Cyril's and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church Olyphant, PA) is having a concert in Scranton, PA, on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. "A TRIBUTE" to Johnny Richards-composer, arranger, genius musician. It will be held at the Scranton High School (by the Stadium), at 63 Mike Munchak Way, Scranton, PA at 7:00 p.m. Please dress appropriately. One of his (Richards) most famous composition is the "Cuban Fire Suite" Tickets are \$25.00 per adult and \$10.00 High School Student with I.D. Any questions, please contact Mr. Marcinko at 570-876-2888.

Redemption & Atonement Catechetical Series. The Orthodox Revolutionary is pleased to announce that all the lectures of our ongoing catechetical series, Cathedral School Series 1, are available on YouTube. These free lectures can be accessed via this link:

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp6AKQ36kE_S2eBPZQFsT4b0nA-xJaPt7. Alternately, one can download the MP3 files from TOR's website: www.orthorev.net. These recordings are all free of charge. This is a brief synopsis of the series:

All Christians--whether Catholic, Protestant, or Eastern Orthodox--agree that the forgiveness of our sins requires Christ's death. This is known among western Christians as the doctrine of the atonement. The model of atonement held by Catholics and Protestants depicts Christ's paying the penalty for sin by dying in mankind's place. This is far and away the most widely accepted understanding of why the forgiveness of our sins requires Christ's death.

Almost completely forgotten is an understanding held by some Eastern Orthodox Christians, a position that TOR founder Paul Vendredi calls the "restored icon" theory. This model of atonement (if "atonement" is even the appropriate word ["redemption" is better]) understands man as a damaged icon of God restored to wholeness by Christ's life, death, and resurrection. This understanding predominated in Christian thought until the eleventh century when Anselm's book *Why God Became Man* forcefully articulated what is now known as penal-substitutionary atonement. Sadly, Anselm's model has so eclipsed all other models of atonement that the "restored icon" model has been forgotten, even by many within Eastern Orthodoxy.

The restored-icon model understands Christ's dying for our sins as having nothing to do either with penalties or substitutions, but everything to do with God's healing the fallen human nature. Cathedral School Series 1 argues on behalf of the restored-icon model, examining the scriptural, logical, and ethical problems with the "penal-substitutionary atonement" model.

This series reveals that the dogma of penal-substitutionary atonement--one of the six "fundamentals" enshrined by conservative Protestants during the Fundamentalist-Modernist debates of the 1920s--is actually a composite of arguments taken from Catholic giants of the late-antique and medieval

periods (Augustine and Anselm); influential Calvinist thinkers like Jonathan Edwards; and such current-day Protestant grandees as R. C. Sproul, Chuck Swindoll, and the legendary Walter Martin. In the course of these podcasts, Paul Vendredi--armed with supporting quotes by medievals and moderns alike, whether on paper or on audio clip--refutes penal-substitutionary atonement, showing it to be unbiblical, illogical, and unethical.

ANTIPASCHA: ST THOMAS SUNDAY

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

CHURCH BREAD RECIPES

Back by popular demand!

PROSPHORA BREAD

(FOR FASTING TIMES OF THE YEAR)

6 c. flour
2 c. warm water
2 pkg or 1 ½ T. Yeast
1 t. salt

Pour yeast into half of the water and stir until dissolved. Mix dry ingredients. Add rest of water to yeast and then add to dry mix. Knead very well. Dough should be very stiff, but not dry. If necessary, add a little more water during kneading. Let dough rise about one hour.

Separate dough into 4 balls (for 6 cups).

Roll each ball into a smooth sphere, then flatten slightly on floured baking sheet.

OR, working with a piece of dough at a time, roll out with rolling pin. Either cut with a large cookie cutter (4 - 5 inch dia.) or divide and put into spring-form bread molds.

Let rise about ½ hour. Bake at 350 degrees for about

30 minutes, or until bottom is slightly browned. The bread does not brown very much.

ARTOCLASIA (FESTAL BREAD)

7 c. flour
2 c. warm water
2 pkg or 1 ½ T dry yeast
1 tsp. salt
¾ c. sugar *OR* ½ c. sugar & ¼ c. honey
¼ c. oil
1 T Cinnamon (or more to taste)
powdered sugar & honey

Proof the yeast with 1 c. of the water and a tablespoon or so of sugar. Mix dry ingredients well. Add yeast, the rest of the water, oil and honey (if you use honey) Knead well. Dough should be just slightly sticky. You may need to add flour as you knead. Raise one hour.

Separate dough into 4 balls. Roll smooth, then flatten on floured baking sheet, or press into well-greased spring-form bread molds (I also use well-greased Pyrex bowls). Raise about 1 hour. Bake at 350 degrees about 30 minutes. Bread should be browned on top and bottom. If desired, brush with honey then dust with powdered sugar.

THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIDNAPING OF THE 2 BISHOPS IN SYRIA.

STATEMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS

1. We, the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, representing millions of Orthodox Christians, express our grave concern over the escalation of unrest and ongoing violence in countries throughout the Middle East, especially in Egypt, Iraq and Syria.

2. Our Assembly denounces any and all attacks—whether by means of violence, kidnapping, torture or killing—on all fellow human beings, irrespective of their race, ethnic origin, and religion. Moreover, we deplore the destruction of all places of worship or their forced conversion from their original intent.

3. We are especially disheartened at the inexcusable indifference and unjustifiable inaction of local and national governments, which have failed to protect the Christian population in these regions. We are also gravely troubled that representatives of the ancient Christian communities in Syria are not included in the peace and reconciliation process. Christians in Iraq, Egypt, and Syria have peacefully coexisted with people of all faiths in the region for two thousand years. As such, they must be respected and included in all decisions toward social and political justice.

4. One year ago, on April 22, 2013, the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi (brother of His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch) and the Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, both of Aleppo, Syria were kidnaped by Islamist extremists during a joint philanthropic mission in the region. With sorrowful hearts we recognize a growing lack of interest on the part of civil authorities to assist in the recovery of the two Christian leaders. We encourage all people of good conscience to communicate with their elected officials and ask them to assist in the effort to find and retrieve the two bishops. We implore the Holy Great-Martyr Saint George, the patron of Christians of the Middle East and upon the eve of whose Feast the Hierarchs were kidnapped, to intercede for their salvation and safe return.

Moreover, we appeal to the world's 2.2 billion Christians, as well as to all people of faith and good will, and ask them to keep the two bishops in their daily thoughts and prayers. We also ask the Orthodox Christian faithful of our Assembly's region to offer a special petition during the Great Litany of all divine services during this 40-day Season of Pascha. Before the petition commemorating the Most Holy Mother of God, we ask that the following petition be included: For the safety of Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John and for their return to their communities, let us pray to the Lord.

The Members of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America

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!