

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 5.3

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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!

May 18, 2014

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., May 18 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman.
 Martyr Irene.
 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - pp. 205 – 206
 Church School - Elementary Classes
 Parish Board Meeting
 Men's Club Meeting

Sat., May 24 Bishops Cyril & Methodius
 9:30 AM First Confessions

Sun., May 25 Sunday of the Man Born Blind
 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - pp. 202–203

Mon., May 26 Martyr Glyceria
 9:00 AM Grave Blessings beginning at St.
 Nicholas parish cemetery

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. Ann Marie
 Tigue. 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.

Eternal Light: Memory of Richard Czibik - Laurence
 Czibik.

Panachida: Memory of Richard Czibik - Laurence
 Czibik.

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD. Thursday, May 29. Divine
 Liturgy at 9 AM.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

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

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, May 11 2014

\$ 314.00	General Collection
\$ 133.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 15.00	Holy Days
\$ 23.00	Tapers
\$ 3.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 448.00	Total Collection

PARISH STUFF

Church School. Today is the last day of classes for the year. Elementary grades will meet.

Men's Club News:

- The regular monthly meeting will be held today after the Parish Board meeting.

Donation List - remains in the hall for all to add to as we seek to put together a list of all who have donated liturgical items to the parish.

Camp Nazareth Family Day Raffle Tickets The main Prize is \$10,000 and the cost is \$20 per ticket. See Nick Polanichka if you want some.

Grave Blessings: This year I will be blessing graves on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. I plan to begin at the parish cemetery at about 9:00 AM. Here is the tentative schedule:

9 AM Parish Cemetery

10:30 AM-ish Abington Hills

12:00 Noon-ish Fairview (in Elmhurst)

3 PM-ish Nicholson

I'm not sure how long I will be at each cemetery. The above are possible times, perhaps, maybe. It would help if someone at each cemetery would plan to have your cell phone and let me know the number so that I can try to call ahead.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Anthracite Opera Company presents "East Meets West" on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at St. Peters Lutheran Church at the corner of Ash and Taylor Ave. Scranton, Pa. (The Hill Section) The Ekumen Chorale, directed by Maestro Patrick Marcinko (the Choir Director at SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant, PA) will open the concert representing "The East". All are welcome to come to the Concert!!!! The programs begins promptly at 3:00 p.m., Tickets are \$7.00 per person, and Children are admitted free. All proceeds go to the "Needy Children's Fund"

Rummage Sale! Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Catholic Church, Dickson City, PA is sponsoring a Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 24th, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (no early birds) being

held at the LaSalle Academy Primary Campus School Hall (across the street from the Church and "Saint" Pope John Paul II statue) at 625 Dundaff Street, Dickson City, Pa. For more information call the Parish at 570-489-2091 and the School 570-489-0061

Benefit Motorcycle Ride for the benefit of Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, Humane Society (South Abington Twp., PA) will be held on Sunday June 8th, 2014, Starting at Electric City Harley Davidson, on Route 6, at 1534 Scranton-Carbondale Highway, Scranton, PA. (By the Circle Drive-In) Registration is 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Ride starts at 12:00 Noon. Approximately 57 miles and 1 1/2 hour ride. Donation is \$15.00 per Rider and \$5.00 per Passenger.

The Motorcycle Ride ends at AJ's Club Soda Restaurant, 1017 Main Street, Peckville, (turn onto Main Street, By The Mid-Valley Hospital) with a cook out. The Cook-out will start at 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Animals will be available for adoption from the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, open to the public. Contact Greg at 570-351-5256 and Nancy at 570-561-5560.

ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY 110TH MEMORIAL DAY PILGRIMAGE: All are invited to participate in the Annual Pilgrimage at St. Tikhon's Monastery over the Memorial Day weekend. The Pilgrimage begins on *Friday, May 23*. At 3:30 PM. It ends on *Monday, May 26*, at 4 PM. The full schedule is posted on the hall bulleting board, or you can find it on the Monastery's website at http://www.sttikhonsmonastery.org/news_140408_1.html.

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)

FIRST ANNUAL DIOCESAN YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT!

This summer, our Diocese is pleased to offer a new event specifically for our young women. The First Annual Young Women's Retreat will provide an opportunity for the young women of our Diocese to spend time in each other's company, have fun, pray together, and learn about how God calls each woman to serve His church with her talents and abilities.

This Retreat will take place concurrently with the Diocesan Altar Boy's Retreat. In many ways, these separate experiences are meant to parallel each other, with each focusing on the experience, vocations, and unique gifts bestowed upon the young men and women of our Church. Over the years, both the clergy and laity have expressed a great interest in creating an event tailored to our girls and young women. This year, this hope will come to fruition.

The first annual Young Women's Retreat will take place from June 29 – July 2, 2014.

The Retreat will be hosted by the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Windber, Pennsylvania. Young women in our Diocese ages 12 – 18 are invited to attend.

Space is limited to the first thirty respondents, so please register as soon as possible. Registration deadline is June 2, 2014.

All parishes of the Diocese are urged to underwrite the \$90.00 participation fee for their young women in recognition of all the ways that these young women serve their parishes.

DIOCESAN ALTAR BOY RETREAT 2014:

Plans are being finalized for this year's Altar Boy Retreat - "Encounter 2014". This Diocesan-wide event will take place from Sunday evening, June 29th (Registration is from 6pm till 8 p.m.) until Wednesday, July 2nd. The Retreat will once again take place at our Christ the Savior Seminary, Cathedral and Education Center in Johnstown and SS. Peter & Paul Church facilities in Windber. For our outing this year, we are planning a visit to PNC Park to see the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. This is the time and place for your faithful Altar Servers to join other Altar Boys from all over our Diocese.

The cost of this year's retreat is \$100.00. This includes everything for the three days and also includes a commemorative "Encounter 2014" T-Shirt. Please note that we are asking that all payments be made by the registration deadline. Registrations that are not paid by that time cannot be guaranteed a T-shirt or even a spot at the retreat. We hope to see everyone there!

Hard copies of the Parents' Letter and the Registration form are available in the hall. Electronic registration is once again available this year and is strongly encouraged by using the following link:

You can also find the form on the Diocesan website, ACROD.org.

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.

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

From oca.org

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, St Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to St Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret."

St Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." St Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. St Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished." The Lord said to St Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage St Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to St Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and St Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Photia, Photis, Paraskeva and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. St Photina

converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from St Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of St Photina also suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to cut off their breasts and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for St Photis: they tied her by the feet to the tops of two bent-over trees. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. St Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66).