

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 3 No. 5.4

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

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 25, 2014

SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND

PARISH CALENDAR

PEOPLE STUFF

Sun., May 25 SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND.

Bps. Epiphanius and Germanus.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - pp. 206–207

Mon., May 26 Martyr Glyceria

MEMORIAL DAY

9:00 AM Grave Blessings beginning at St. Nicholas parish cemetery. See article in bulletin for details.

THUR., MAY 29 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD INTO HEAVEN

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy - pp. 208–211

Sun., June 1 FATHERS OF THE 1ST COUNCIL OF NICEA.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy - Special sheets.
Altar Society regular meeting scheduled.

Today is Camp Nazareth Family Day.

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

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

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. 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.

Joseph Maruhnich, a former member of the parish and brother of Pauline Maruhnich, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, May 13. The 40-day memorial will be held on Sunday, June 29. Eternal memory!

God's Blessings on *Nicholas DiMichele* and *Colin Joyce*. The boys received their First Confession yesterday. As Altar Servers, they already stand near the Lord during the Divine Liturgy. Today they will come out to lead the Our Father during the Liturgy. May God bless their parents and their brothers and

sister also on this day!

PARISH STUFF

Church School. Thanks and God bless! To our Church School Teachers Nancy Barnett, Rosemary Hrywnack and Carol Wassel for their willingness to offer their time and effort to instruct our parish children in the faith. Thanks also to the parents and the children for the cooperation and help they gave this year to the Parish Church School. God certainly blesses the effort.

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.

Parish Board News: *Highlights from the latest Parish Board Minutes:*

BOARD MEETING, MARCH 16, 2014

Treasurer's report

Income \$8,926.89

Expenses \$10,041.45

Loss \$1,114.56

- Nick Polanichka was elected to be the stewardship coordinator.
- The food collection for the poor was run until Palm Sunday.
- Men's Club will run a Spaghetti Dinner, April 27 and a Chicken Barbeque, August 16.
- As always, the minutes are available in the office located in the Church Hall.
- Meeting was cancelled for the month of April.

Fr. Nik at College Theology Society Convention: I will be away from Thursday after Divine Liturgy through Tuesday of the following week.

- Fr. Frank Rella, a priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, will substitute for me for Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Please welcome him to the parish.
- In an emergency, please call Fr. Mark Leasure at 570-562-1170. You can also reach me on my cell phone.

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.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, May 18 2014

\$ 420.00	General Collection
\$ 74.00	7 Day Lights
\$ 2.00	Holy Days
\$ 11.00	Tapers
\$ 2.00	1 st Sunday
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 120.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 636.00	Total Collection

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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 continues today and tomorrow. 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)

Olyphant Queen City Days Picnic: Olyphant Eureka Volunteer Fire Hose Company#4, will be conducting The *Queen City Days picnic* on Thursday June 5, Friday June 6, Saturday June 7 and Sunday June 8th 2014 for the benefit of the Volunteer Fire Company,

on the grounds of Rep. Joseph Wargo and Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck Sports Complex, 700 Block of East Grant Street, Olyphant, (Fern Hill Section, exit 2 off of the Casey Highway, Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant. The Parade will be on Friday, June 6th at 7:00 p.m. from Downtown Olyphant to the top of East Grant Street to the Picnic. Free Fireworks Display will be on Sunday June 8th approximately 9:00 p.m.

Local groups will be offering a Variety of Food and Beverages, "Bingo" and Raffle by SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, "Big Ball" tournament by local softball teams, rides for kids of all ages, children activities, live music nightly, K-9 demonstrations by Lackawanna Police Swat Team, and the Olyphant Police Department will offer fingerprinting for Children. A good time for all!!! Plenty of Free Parking!!!

Contact John Sedlak (Mayor of Olyphant) at 570-383-1406.

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.

International Dinner featuring "France" will be prepared for you by Chef Joe Lomeo on June 12, 2014. The menu will start with a Three Onion Soup topped with Asiago crisps and a Brie Cheese and fruit platter topped with a fruit compo. Then the entree of Chicken Cordon Blue a Panko crusted Chicken stuffed with Swiss Cheese and Smoked Ham, topped with a white wine cream sauce served with roasted Garlic Potatoes and Asparagus. The dessert will be a creamy Salted Caramel Cheese Cake. Water, Soda, Coffee, and Tea are included and a cash bar is

available. Seatings are at 5:30 and 6:30pm and is \$20.00 per person. Please make reservations by June 9th by calling 570-343-5151.

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.

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

"And Ascended into Heaven...."

An article by V. Rev. George Florovsky, D.D. Originally published in St Vladimir's Seminary Quarterly, Vol. 2 # 3, 1954. Excerpted from www.OCA.org

"I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God, and Your God" (John 20:17).

In these words the Risen Christ described to Mary Magdalene the mystery of His Resurrection. She had to carry this mysterious message to His disciples, "as they mourned and wept" (Mark 16:10). The disciples listened to these glad tidings with fear and amazement, with doubt and mistrust. It was not Thomas alone who

doubted among the Eleven. On the contrary, it appears that only one of the Eleven did not doubt—St John, the disciple "whom Jesus loved." He alone grasped the mystery of the empty tomb at once: "and he saw, and believed" (John 20:8). Even Peter left the sepulcher in amazement, "wondering at that which was come to pass" (Luke 24:12).

The disciples did not expect the Resurrection. The women did not, either. They were quite certain that Jesus was dead and rested in the grave, and they went to the place "where He was laid," with the spices they had prepared, "that they might come and anoint Him." They had but one thought: "Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulcher for us?" (Mark 16:1-3; Luke 24:1). And therefore, on not finding the body, Mary Magdalene was sorrowful and complained: "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him" (John 20:13). On hearing the good news from the angel, the women fled from the sepulchre in fear and trembling: "Neither said they anything to any man, for they were afraid" (Mark 16:8). And when they spoke no one believed them, in the same way as no one had believed Mary, who saw the Lord, or the disciples as they walked on their way into the country, (Mark 16:13), and who recognized Him in the breaking of bread. "And afterward He appeared unto the Eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them who had seen Him after He was risen" (Mark 16:10-14).

From whence comes this "hardness of heart" and hesitation? Why were their eyes so "holden," why were the disciples so much afraid of the news, and why did the Easter joy so slowly, and with such difficulty, enter the Apostles' hearts? Did not they, who were with Him from the beginning, "from the baptism of John," see all the signs of power which He performed before the face of the whole people? The lame walked, the blind saw, the dead were raised, and all infirmities were healed. Did they not behold, only a week earlier, how He raised by His word Lazarus from the dead, who had already been in the grave for four days? Why then was it so strange to them that the Master had arisen Himself? How was it that they came to forget that which the Lord used to tell them on many occasions, that after suffering and death He would arise on the third day? (*To be continued*).