

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 1.2

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 11, 2015

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, REMEMBERING HOLY JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, KING DAVID AND JAMES, BROTHER OF THE LORD. 31ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST. 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Raždajetsja! Slavite Jeho!

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 11 Sunday After Christmas, remembering Holy Joseph the Betrothed, King David and James, Brother of the Lord. 31st Sunday of Pentecost. 15th Sunday of Luke.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Panachida: Michael Basket - 40 Day mem.

Church School Meets

Regularly scheduled Men's Club meeting

Wed., Jan. 14 *Circumcision of Our Lord. St. Basil the Great.*

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 140–141

Panachida: Vaia Costianes

No Fasting

Sun., Jan. 18 *Vigil of Theophany. 32nd Sunday of Pentecost. 16th Sunday of Luke.*

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Parish Board Meets

Fast from Meat and Dairy

5:00 PM Great Compline & the Great Blessing of Water – Special Books

Confessions: from about 45 minutes before any Divine Liturgy until about 15 minutes before.

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Feasts in January:

Circumcision of Our Lord, & Commemoration of St. Basil the Great – Wed., Jan. 13. Divine Liturgy is at 9 AM.

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD – Mon., Jan. 19

5:00 PM Sunday Evening: Great Compline and Blessing of Water.

9:00 AM Monday Morning: Divine Liturgy.

No Fasting! We should not fast from Christmas until the Eve of Theophany (Jan. 18), in celebration of the coming of Our God among us!

Fasting Theophany Eve: Theophany is the twin feast of Christmas, and so liturgical practices and home practices are very similar. So, Theophany Eve (Jan. 18) is a day of fast from meat and dairy products. The custom is to celebrate the same kind of Holy Supper that is celebrated on Christmas Eve.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Michael Besket.

Living: Matt & Lori Algar. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Tim & Christina Bracey. Mary Chupron. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Fr. George Dursa. Jada Eiden. Heather Harris. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Dawn & Warren Kieffer. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Dan & Teri Ludwig. Peggy Majcher. Theresa Niester. John Polanichka. 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: Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

Eternal Light: Memory of Stephen & Susan Baronych by the Bonk family.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Food Collection Project: Please remember those families who rely on food donations to help make ends meet. As you are aware, the funding for the Bread Basket of NEPA has been cut, and they rely on donations to help those families in need. A food donation container is available in the Church Hall. Please help fill this container with non-perishable food items: cans, dry goods, etc.

PARISH STUFF

Auditors Sought: One more auditor is needed. If you are willing to consider taking on this task, please see Fr. Nik or Jane Togher. Ordinarily there are 2 auditors selected to check the parish's books every year.

Pirohi Sales Starting Next Week! The first Pirohi Sale for the Spring session will be *Fri., Jan. 23*. We will be making them at the usual days and times:

Wed., Jan. 21 7:30 AM Pirohi Prep

Thu., Jan. 22 8:00 AM Pirohi Making

Fri., Jan. 23 10 AM – 4 PM Pirohi Sale

We had a great response from people to come and work this past fall. As you all know, it really made the

work so much easier and enjoyable. We hope to have the same kind of response this spring. If folks cannot make it because of driving conditions, let us know and we will be glad to get you a ride.

Finally, we will only have 6 Pirohi Sales this Spring since Easter is a bit early this year: Western Easter is April 5 and Orthodox Easter is April 12. We give here the planned schedule of Sales, so that you can mark them on your calendar:

Fri., Jan. 23 Fri., Feb. 6 Fri., Feb. 20

Fri., Mar. 6 Fri., Mar. 20 Fri., Apr. 3

There do not seem to be any conflicts with Holy Days, so Wednesdays and Thursdays should be the usual working days.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Sunday, January 4

\$458.00	General Collection
\$63.00	1st Sunday
\$114.00	7 Day Light
\$272.00	Church Dues
\$100.00	Parking
\$7.00	Taper Candles
\$1,350.00	Christmas
\$2,364.00	Total Collection

Christmas Day, January 7

\$54.00	General Collection
\$7.00	1st Sunday
\$69.00	7 Day Light
\$21.50	Holy Days
\$2.50	Maintenance & Repairs
\$13.50	Taper Candles
\$5.00	Vigil Light
\$2,092.50	Christmas
\$2,265.00	Total Collection

House Blessings Begin Next Week! I have not been around to see everyone for a couple of years, so this year I am planning to visit everyone that I can. Here are some thoughts:

- I will be calling everyone to make plans for visiting. If I have not called you by Monday of any given week, I will probably not be coming that week.

- Because the parish census is now more or less up to date, I do not plan to spend the kind of time I had to spend the first time around, unless it is necessary.
- *Please Note:* If your address or phone number has changed in the past 3 years, *please let me know* (even if you already did), just so I can be sure I have the correct information. You can call me, send me an email, or write me a note.
- If you would prefer I not bless your home, please let me know that also. Again, just write or call me. If you tell me ahead of time, it will help me plan better.
- I would prefer to have house blessings done before Lent, but I will go as long as it takes.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Malanka 2015 Northeastern Pennsylvania's 11th Annual Ukrainian New Year Dinner Dance - MALANKA - will take place on Saturday evening, January 17, 2015 at the Parish Center of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton, PA.

The menu will feature both Ukrainian and American fare catered by Paul Wanas of Accentuate Caterers of Distinctive Events. Cash bar will be available. Door prizes will be awarded. Music for dancing will be provided by the internationally known Ukrainian band "Fata Morgana". Wearing Ukrainian apparel is encouraged. Tickets \$40.00. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Michael Trusz at 570 489-1256.

MARCH FOR LIFE – is on Thursday, Jan. 22. As in past years, our Potomac Parish is offering a lunch for those who come and march against the unjust taking of human life. Fr. Peter Zarynow made this announcement:

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Gregory, the Potomac Chapter of the ACRY (#25) will be offering a soup and sandwich lunch to those coming to Washington DC for the annual March For Life on 22 January. Lunch will be served approx. 10:30am, so to give time to get to the National Mall by the noon start time. If you are planning on attending, please contact Fr. Peter Zarynow (frzarynow@gmail.com or 301-299-5120) by no later than 16 January so that the

ACRY knows how many to prepare for. We look forward to seeing you at the March!

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY: COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY RIGHTEOUS DAVID THE KING, JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, AND JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

The Holy Prophet-King David, St Joseph the Betrothed, and St James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, St Stephen (December 27), Ss James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Ss Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted St James (October 23) for Jacob [*'James' is the Anglicized name for 'Jacob'*] and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, St. Joseph was linked with Ss David and James.



HOLY RIGHTEOUS
JOSEPH THE
BETROTHED

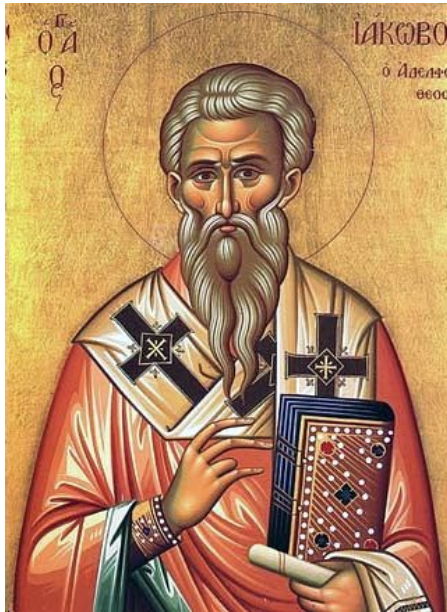
Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who

had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. St Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

St Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, his Feast is moved to December 26. The Righteous Joseph is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers.

RIGHTEOUS JAMES THE BROTHER OF THE LORD

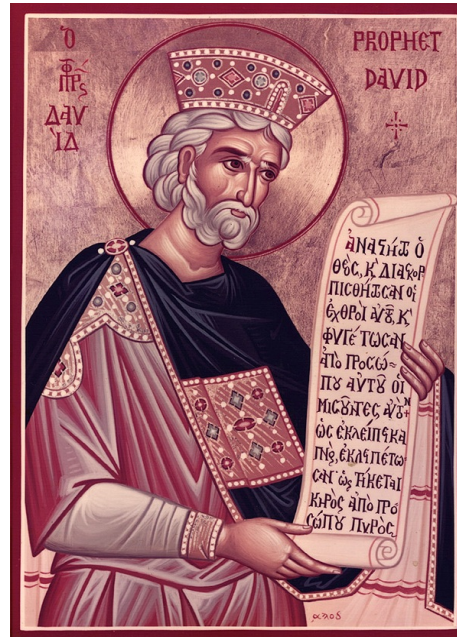


The Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, was the eldest son of Joseph the Betrothed from his first marriage with Solomoniam. The Apostle James is remembered after the Feast of the Nativity of Christ together with his father Joseph and the Prophet-King

David, since he accompanied his family on the Flight into Egypt and lived there with the Infant Jesus, the Mother of God and Joseph. Later, he returned to Israel with them.

After the Ascension of the Lord, St James was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, gaining the great esteem not only of Christians, but also of Jews. He was thrown from the roof of the Jerusalem Temple because he had publicly preached to the people about the God-manhood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Apostle James is also commemorated on October 23.

THE HOLY PROPHET-KING DAVID



The Holy Prophet-King David was a forefather of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. The youngest son of Jesse, David shepherded a flock of sheep belonging to his father. He was distinguished by his deep faith, and he zealously fulfilled the will of God.

During a battle with the Philistines, he vanquished the giant Goliath in single combat, which decided the outcome of the war in favor of the Israelites. He endured many things from King Saul, who saw him as a favorite of the people and his rival. David, however, showed his own decency and magnanimity. Twice, when he had the possibility of killing Saul, he did not do so.

After Saul and his son perished, David was proclaimed king of the southern part of Israel, and after Saul's second son was killed, he became king of all Israel. He built a new capital, Jerusalem ("the City of Peace"), and a new tabernacle. His great wish to build a Temple was not realized. It was foretold to him that his son would build the Temple.

The life of the Prophet David was darkened by a grievous falling: he took Uriah's wife for himself, and sent Uriah to his death in battle. He was also an example of great repentance, humbly and with faith bearing the sorrows sent in punishment for his sins. St David gave a model for repentance in Psalm 50/51. King David died in great old age with steadfast faith in the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. His divinely-inspired Psalter is widely used in the divine services and in personal prayers. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles).

The holy Prophet-King David is invoked by those facing a difficult situation, such as an interview, etc.