

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 1.3

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., Pastor

Jane Togher, Board President

Rectory: 570-344-5917

570-842-3311

Cell: 724-953-6046

jtogher@yahoo.com

nferencz35@gmail.com

Madelyn Hodanich, Choir Director

www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org

Hall - 570-344-1522

January 18, 2015

VIGIL OF THEOPHANY. 32ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST. 16TH SUNDAY OF LUKE.

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

PARISH CALENDAR

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

MON., JAN. 19 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Wed., Jan. 21 Confessor Emilian

7:30 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Jan. 22 Bishop Peter of Sebaste.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fr., Jan. 23 Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun., Jan. 25 Sunday After Theophany. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Martyr Tatiana.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Panachida: Joseph Hodanich by Marge

Skotlewski & Madelyn Hodanich.

Church School Meets

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

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Feasts in January:

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.

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.

Lent is already almost here! Next Sunday is the Sunday of Zacchaeus, the first Sunday of the Pre-Lenten Cycle. Who'd a thought?!

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Mary Chupron.

Living: Matt & Lori Algar. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Tim & Christina Bracey. 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 Stocski.

Assisted Living Homes: Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

Eternal Light: Memory of Marion Pucher by Pucher family.

Altar Vigil Candles: “In loving memory of my father Joseph Jakobovicz by Mary Ann Domin. Eternal be his memory.”

Social Hour Sponsorship: Just a Reminder: Anyone is welcome to sponsor Social Hour on any given Sunday in memory of a loved one or for any reason. You can sign up for the Sunday you wish in the Commemorations Book in the Church Vestibule. The donation is \$40.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Food Collection Project: On Wed., Jan. 14, Maryann and Nick Polanchka delivered 3 boxes of food to the Bread Basket. They were very appreciative and thankful that we continue to support them in their efforts to help feed the families in need of assistance.

To all of our parishioners: 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 This Week! The first Pirohi Sale for the Spring session will be *this 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.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

St. Nicholas Dinner

Total Income	\$ 849.00
Less expenses	<u>-193.47</u>
<i>Net Income</i>	<u>\$ 655.53</u>
January 11, 2015	
\$ 914.00	General Collection
\$ 12.00	1st Sunday
\$ 83.00	7 Day Light
\$ 139.00	Holy Days
\$ 30.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 20.00	Heat Offering
\$ 905.00	Christmas
\$ 12.00	Taper Candles
\$2115.00	Total Collection

House Blessings Begin This 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 as much time for the visit as I did the first time, 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). 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.
- I would prefer to have house blessings done before

Lent, but I will go as long as it takes.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

MARCH FOR LIFE UPDATED INFOR. The following is a communique from Fr. Peter Zarynow via the Diocesan Communications Office received 1/15:

Dear Brother Priests,

Due to the lack of response from within the Diocese, Holy Resurrection Parish will not be hosting a lunch on the Day of the March for Life on Thursday January 22, 2015. However, any traveler to the area who wishes to freshen up before heading to the National Mall, the Church Hall will be open until about 11:15am.

If anyone wishes to join our parishioners on the Metro, they should arrive at Holy Resurrection prior to 11:30am.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church International Dinner Club, 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. 18503 presents "A Taste of Greece" prepared exclusively for you by Chef Robert Olecki on Thursday, February 12, 2015 with seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. The menu will start with a Greek Salad followed by the Entrée of Braised Lamb Shank served with cous cous with golden raisins, peppers and onions, along with Eggplant Caponata. The dessert will be Galaktoboureko (Greek Custard pie). Coffee, tea, water or soda is included for \$20.00 per person and a Cash bar is available. Please call 570-343-5151 before February 9th with your reservation.

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

January 6/19. *From www.oca.org*

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by the St John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death" (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of St Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast [*making the feast older than Christmas by a couple of centuries*]..

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and St Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. St John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Indivisible. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

CAMP NAZARETH SUMMER CAMP 2015

The time for Summer Camp is Rapidly Approaching!!! The clock is ticking!!

REGISTER NOW!!!

Dates for the Summer Camping Program

Week 1 -- July 19-25, 2015

New England, New York, New Jersey, Florida and Canada Deaneries

Week 2 -- July 26-August 1, 2015

Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries

Week 3 – August 2-August 8, 2015

Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic, Tri-State and Washington D.C. Deaneries

Registration Forms are available on the Camp Website – campnazareth.org
Go to the Registration Forms Tab and look for Camper Registration.
If you are Clergy or a Volunteer look for Clergy and Volunteer Registration.

\$20 Early Bird Discount Per Child!!!!

(one-time only, not per week)

Register & pay by May 15, 2015!!!!

All forms listed below AND payment must be submitted by May 15 in order to qualify for the Early Bird Discount.

- Completed and signed Registration Application Form
- Completed, signed and dated Health History and Examination Form (signed by BOTH the parent/guardian and the appropriate licensed medical professional)
- Completed and signed Media Consent Form signed by the parent/guardian
- Completed and signed Dress Code Policy signed by the parent/guardian and the camper
- Payment In-Full by check, money order, or credit card. Checks and Money Orders are to be made payable to *Camp Nazareth* and sent to *Camp Nazareth at 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137*.