

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 2, 2015

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Feb. 1 *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.* Monk Macarius the Great.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Panachida: Elizabeth Oleksulin & Ann Toczko by Joe & Lorraine Kacaba

Mon., Feb. 2 Monk Euthymius the Great.

House Blessings Scheduled

Wed., Feb. 4 Apostle Timothy

7:30 AM *Pirohi Prep*

House Blessings Scheduled

Thu., Feb. 5 Martyred Bishop Clement

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Feb. 6 Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool for Christ.

10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sat., Feb 7 Bishop Gregory the Theologian

House Blessings Scheduled

Sun., Feb. 8 *Sunday of the Prodigal Son.* Monk Xenophon and his wife Mary.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Church School Meets

Men's Club meets - Important mtg – see below.

Altar Society Meets

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

FEASTS . . . & FASTS

Today is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. This week there is no fast at all, even on Wednesday and Friday, as a preparation for the coming of Lent.

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. Tammy Hall. 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.

Mary Chupron, mother of long-time parishioner Carl Chupron, fell asleep in the Lord recently. We will be celebrating a 40-day memorial on Sunday, Feb. 15. *Eternal Memory!*

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Food Collection Project: *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.

All Souls Saturdays: The first All Souls Saturday is on Saturday, Feb. 14. We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and read the list of the names of the deceased at that Liturgy. If you would like to have the names of your loved ones remembered, please get a list to me as soon as you can.

Pirohi Sale! I am very pleased to note that we started up just where we left off. We had a very nice group for the first pirohi making, so let's keep up the good work! This week's schedule is in the bulletin

House Blessings This Week! As of now, I am scheduling House Blessings Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. I will be making phone calls the beginning of the week to arrange times.

- *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.

Men's Club Meeting next Sunday. All members asked to attend since this meeting will be the *Election*

of Officers. Also, *Annual Dues* are due at this meeting!

Altar Society Meeting next Sunday. Agenda will include discussion of the Lenten Mission and also Church Cleaning for Easter.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Editor's Note: I neglected to publish the 1/18 collection results last Sunday. Here is 2 weeks worth:

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

JANUARY 18, 2015

\$ 542.00	General Collection
\$ 69.00	7 Day Light
\$ 63.00	Holy Days
\$ 92.00	Church Dues
\$ 94.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 14.00	Tapered Candles
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 881.00	Total Collection

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

JANUARY 25, 2015

\$ 667.03	General Collection
\$ 5.00	1st Sunday
\$ 90.00	7 Day Light
\$ 673.00	Pirohi
\$ 9.00	Holy Days
\$ 274.00	Church Dues
\$ 103.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 21.00	Eternal Light
\$ 14.00	Taper Candles
\$1,856.03	Total Collection

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Myasopusna at Transfiguration Ukrainian Church, Nanticoke. February 8, Noon to 3:30 PM. Ukrainian dance, music, song, displays, sales, food, pysanky and much more. All welcome! For tickets, call 570-735-4654 or 570-824-3880. See Flyer in hall for more info.

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.

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, 310 Broadway St., Scranton, Pa. is having a **Lenten Food Sale**. They will be offering: Haluski at \$7.00 per Quart; Clam Chowder at \$8.00 per Quart and Pirohi at \$8.00 per dozen by order only. The deadline for orders is Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 and you may pick them up on Monday, March 2, 2015 from 10am to 2 pm. Please call Sylvia at 570-343-8820. Place orders early, do not be disappointed.

EASTERN REGION
DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT
Saturday, March 28, 2015
9:00 Am to 5:00 Pm
At
Holy Ghost Orthodox Church
Starr and Bridge Streets
Phoenixville, Pa
Cost to Attend (Includes Lunch):
\$20.00 Adults / Teens
\$7.00 (Ages 6 to 12)
Overnight Accommodations
Available upon Request
Registration Deadline: March 21, 2015
Contact
Tracey Bilanin
Tbilanin@yahoo.com
(484) 624-4664
Sponsored by the National ACRY

"Meatless Meal for Lent: "BAKED HADDOCK" FISH DINNER. " on Friday, March 27, 2015 sponsored by SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA. Sponsored by Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa. TIME: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. PLACE: At the REGAL ROOM (Ballroom/side entrance), 216 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, Pa. MENU: Baked haddock, potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll and dessert

Sit Down or Take Out!! Pre sold tickets are \$13.00 per dinner. Call 570-383-9487 for Reservations

*Deadline for pre-sold Tickets is Monday, March 23, 2015. *LIMITED amount of Dinners will be available a the Door \$15.00

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION

The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee. At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins.

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances.

The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14).

The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee's religious piety, nor the Publican's repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

BLESSED XENIA OF ST PETERSBURG

Commemorated on January 24

Saint Xenia lived during the eighteenth century, but little is known of her life or of her family. She passed most of her life in Petersburg during the reigns of the empresses Elizabeth and Catherine II.

Xenia Grigorievna Petrova was the wife of an army officer, Major Andrew Petrov. After the wedding, the couple lived in St Petersburg. St Xenia became a widow at the age of twenty-six when her husband suddenly died at a party. She grieved for the

loss of her husband, and especially because he died without Confession or Holy Communion.

Once her earthly happiness ended, she did not look for it again. From that time forward, Xenia lost interest in the things of this world, and followed the difficult path of foolishness for the sake of Christ. The basis for this strange way of life is to be found in the first Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:18-24, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 3:18-19). The Lord strengthened her and helped her to bear sorrow and misfortune patiently for the next forty-five years.

She started wearing her husband's clothing, and insisted that she be addressed as "Andrew Feodorovich." She told people that it was she, and not her husband, who had died. In a certain sense, this was perfectly true. She abandoned her former way of life and experienced a spiritual rebirth. When she gave away her house and possessions to the poor, her relatives complained to the authorities. After speaking to Xenia, the officials were convinced that she was in her right mind and was entitled to dispose of her property as she saw fit. Soon she had nothing left for herself, so she wandered through the poor section of Petersburg with no place to lay her head. She refused all assistance from her relatives, happy to be free of worldly attachments.

When her late husband's red and green uniform wore out, she clothed herself in rags of those colors. After a while, Xenia left Petersburg for eight years. It is believed that she visited holy Elders and ascetics throughout Russia seeking instruction in the spiritual life. She may have visited St Theodore of Sanaxar (February 19), who had been a military man himself. His life changed dramatically when a young officer died at a drinking party. Perhaps this officer was St Xenia's husband. In any case, she knew St Theodore and profited from his instructions.

St Xenia eventually returned to the poor section of Petersburg, where she was mocked and insulted because of her strange behavior. When she did accept money from people it was only small amounts, which she used to help the poor. She spent her nights praying without sleep in a field outside the city. Prayer strengthened her, and in her heart's conversation with the Lord she found the support she needed on her difficult path.

When a new church was being built in the

Smolensk cemetery, St Xenia brought bricks to the site. She did this in secret, during the night, so that no one would know.

Soon her great virtue and spiritual gifts began to be noticed. She prophesied future events affecting the citizens of Petersburg, and even the royal family. Against her will, she became known as someone pleasing to God, and nearly everyone loved her. They said, "Xenia does not belong to this world, she belongs to God." People regarded her visits to their homes or shops as a great blessing. St Xenia loved children, and mothers rejoiced when the childless widow would stand and pray over a baby's crib, or kiss a child. They believed that the blessed one's kiss would bring that child good fortune.

St Xenia lived about forty-five years after the death of her husband, and departed to the Lord at the age of seventy-one. The exact date and circumstances of her death are not known, but it probably took place at the end of the eighteenth century. She was buried in the Smolensk cemetery.

By the 1820s, people flocked to her grave to pray for her soul, and to ask her to intercede with God for them. So many visitors took earth from her grave that it had to be replaced every year. Later, a chapel was built over her grave.

Those who turn to St Xenia in prayer receive healing from illness, and deliverance from their afflictions. She is also known for helping people who seek jobs.

Meditation Space ↑

