

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 2.2

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 8, 2015

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

### PARISH CALENDAR

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.*

Thu., Feb. 12 *3 Holy Bishops Basil, Gregory & John*

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Panachida: Joseph Mahrulich

SAT., FEB 14 1<sup>ST</sup> ALL SOULS SATURDAY. Nun Brigid of Kildare. Martyr Trypon.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and Hramoty ( Lists of the Deceased)

SUN., FEB. 15 ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON IN THE TEMPLE. MEAT-FARE SUNDAY.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles – Special Sheets

Panachida: Mary Chupron - 40 day remembrance.

*Parish Board Meets*

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

### FEASTS . . . & FASTS

**Three Holy Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom** on Thursday, Feb. 12. Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.

**1<sup>st</sup> All-Souls Saturday** this coming Saturday, Feb. 13. We will remember the deceased of the parish. If you have changes or additions to your list of the deceased, or if you wish to have your loved ones remembered, please get your list to Fr. Nik as soon as possible.

**Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon in the Temple** is next Sunday. It will be celebrated together with Meat-Fare Sunday. On this day it is customary in many places to bless candles as a remembrance of the Prophet Simeon's declaration of Our Lord as the Light of the World.

### 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 Sales** we had a nice sized group of people this past week. Thanks. The next sale is Friday, Feb. 20.

**Men's Club Meeting** today. 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** – my apologies for creating the confusion last Sunday. The Altar Society met last Sunday.

**Parish Board Meets** next Sunday, Feb. 15, as usual.

### 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.

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

\$ 388.00	General Collection
\$ 62.00	1st Sunday
\$ 80.00	7 Day Light
\$ 90.00	Church Dues
\$ 10.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 11.00	Taper Candles
<b>\$ 641.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

**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 Galaktobourekos (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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**"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.

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

SYNAXIS OF THE ECUMENICAL TEACHERS AND  
HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE  
THEOLOGIAN, AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Commemorated on January 30

Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom: During the eleventh century, disputes raged in Constantinople about which of the three hierarchs was the greatest. Some preferred St Basil (January 1), others honored St Gregory the Theologian (January 25), while a third group exalted St John Chrysostom (November 13).

Dissension among Christians increased. Some called themselves Basilians, others referred to themselves as Gregorians, and others as Johnites.

By the will of God, the three hierarchs appeared to St John the Bishop of Euchaita (June 14) in the year 1084, and said that they were equal before God. "There are no divisions among us, and no opposition to one another."

They ordered that the disputes should stop, and

that their common commemoration should be celebrated on a single day. Bishop John chose January 30 for their joint Feast, thus ending the controversy and restoring peace.

VENERABLE BRIGID (BRIDGET) OF IRELAND

Commemorated on February 1

Saint Brigid, "the Mary of the Gael," was born around 450 in Faughart, about two miles from Dundalk in County Louth. According to Tradition, her father was a pagan named Dubthach, and her mother was Brocessa (Broiseach), one of his slaves.

Even as a child, she was known for her compassion for the poor. She would give away food, clothing, and even her father's possessions to the poor. One day he took Brigid to the king's court, leaving her outside to wait for him. He asked the king to buy his daughter from him, since her excessive generosity made her too expensive for him to keep. The king asked to see the girl, so Dubthach led him outside. They were just in time to see her give away her father's sword to a beggar. This sword had been presented to Dubthach by the king, who said, "I cannot buy a girl who holds us so cheap."

St Brigid received monastic tonsure at the hands of St Mael of Ardagh (February 6). Soon after this, she established a monastery on land given to her by the King of Leinster. The land was called Cill Dara (Kildare), or "the church of the oak." This was the beginning of women's cenobitic monasticism in Ireland.

The miracles performed by St Brigid are too numerous to relate here, but perhaps one story will suffice. One evening the holy abbess was sitting with the blind nun Dara. From sunset to sunrise they spoke of the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and of the love of Christ, losing all track of time. St Brigid was struck by the beauty of the earth and sky in the morning light. Realizing that Sister Dara was unable to appreciate this beauty, she became very sad. Then she prayed and made the Sign of the Cross over Dara's eyes. All at once, the blind nun's eyes were opened and she saw the sun in the east, and the trees and flowers sparkling with dew. She looked for a while, then turned to St Brigid and said, "Close my eyes again, dear Mother, for when the world is visible to the eyes, then God is seen less clearly by the soul." St Brigid prayed again, and Dara became blind once more.

St Brigid fell asleep in the Lord in the year 523 after receiving Holy Communion from St Ninnidh of Inismacsaint (January 18). She was buried at Kildare, but her relics were transferred to Downpatrick during the Viking invasions. It is believed that she was buried in the same grave with St Patrick (March 17) and St Columba of Iona (June 9).

Late in the thirteenth century, her head was brought to Portugal by three Irish knights on their way to fight in the Holy Land. They left this holy relic in the parish church of Lumiar, about three miles from Lisbon. Portions of the relic were brought back to Ireland in 1929 and placed in a new church of St Brigid in Dublin.

The relics of St Brigid in Ireland were destroyed in the sixteenth century by Lord Grey during the reign of Henry VIII.

The tradition of making St Brigid's crosses from rushes and hanging them in the home is still followed in Ireland, where devotion to her is still strong. She is also venerated in northern Italy, France, and Wales.

MARTYR TRYPHON OF CAMPSADA NEAR  
APAMEA IN SYRIA

Commemorated on February 1

The Martyr Tryphon was born in Phrygia, one of the districts of Asia Minor, in the village of Lampsacus. From his early years the Lord granted him the power to cast out demons and to heal various maladies. He once saved the inhabitants of his native city from starvation. St Tryphon, by the power of his prayer, turned back a plague of locusts that were devouring the grain and devastating the fields.

St Tryphon gained particular fame by casting out an evil spirit from the daughter of the Roman emperor Gordian (238-244). Helping everyone in distress, he asked only one thing from them: faith in Jesus Christ, by Whose grace he healed them.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) assumed the imperial throne, he began a fierce persecution of Christians. Someone reported to the commander Aquilinus that St Tryphon was boldly preaching faith in Christ, and that he led many to Baptism. The saint was arrested and subjected to interrogation, during which he fearlessly confessed his faith.

He was subjected to harsh tortures: they beat him with clubs, raked his body with iron hooks, they

scorched his flesh with fire, and led him through the city, after iron nails were hammered into his feet. St Tryphon bravely endured all the torments without complaint.

Finally, he was condemned to beheading with a sword. The holy martyr prayed before his execution, thanking God for strengthening him in his sufferings. He also asked the Lord to bless those who should call upon his name for help. Just as the soldiers raised the sword over the head of the holy martyr, he surrendered his soul into the hands of God. This event occurred in the city of Nicea in the year 250.

Christians wrapped the holy body of the martyr in a clean shroud and wanted to bury him in the city of Nicea, where he suffered, but St Tryphon in a vision commanded them to take his body to his native land to the village of Lampsada. Later on, the relics of St Tryphon were transferred to Constantinople, and then to Rome.

In Russia, St Tryphon is regarded as the patron saint of birds. There is a story that when Tsar Ivan the Terrible was out hunting, his falconer carelessly allowed the Tsar's favorite falcon to fly away. The Tsar ordered the falconer Tryphon Patrikeiev to find the bird within three days, or else he would be put to death. Tryphon searched all through the forest, but without luck.

On the third day, exhausted by long searching, he returned to Moscow to the place called Marinaya Grove. Overcome with weariness, he lay down to rest, fervently praying to his patron saint, the Martyr Tryphon, for help.

In a dream he saw a youth on a white horse, holding the Tsar's falcon on his hand. The youth said, "Take the lost bird, go to the Tsar and do not grieve." When he awakened, the falconer actually spotted the falcon on a pine tree. He took it to the Tsar and told him about the miraculous help he received from the holy Martyr Tryphon. Grateful to St Tryphon for saving his life, Tryphon Patrikeiev built a chapel on the spot where the saint appeared. Later on, he also built a church dedicated to the holy Martyr Tryphon in Moscow.

The holy martyr is greatly venerated in the Russian Orthodox Church as the heavenly protector of Moscow. Many Russian icons depict the saint holding a falcon on his arm.