

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 22, 2015

MONK JOHN CLIMACUS. 40 MARTYRS OF SEBASTE.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 22 *Monk John Climacus. 40 Martyrs of Sebaste.*

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Church School Meets

3:00 PM Lenten Mission – Vespers here – Fr. Bob preaching.

Wed., Mar 25 Confessor Theophan. Symeon the New Theologian.

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Fri., Mar 27 Monk Benedict.

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Paraklis (*instead of the Akathist*)

Sat., Mar. 28 *Akathist Saturday. Martyr Agapius and companions.*

Adult Retreat in Phoenixville, sponsored by the ACRY.

Sun., Mar 29 *Venerable Mary of Egypt. Martyrs Sabinus and Papas.*

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Confessions: See *Parish Calendar* for days and times.

THE LENTEN FAST

WEEKS 2 THROUGH 6:

DIOCESAN RULES require fasting from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays (which we are supposed to do all year anyway).

TRADITIONAL RULES call for STRICT FAST (no meat, dairy, wine or oil products) *every weekday* during the Great Lenten Season, with some few exceptions which I note in the bulletin. On Saturdays and Sundays the Traditional Rules permit wine and oil. Meals should be limited to one a day.

COMMUNION FASTING:

For the reception of Holy Eucharist in the morning, we must fast from bed-time until we receive, as usual. To receive Holy Eucharist in the evening (for instance, at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts), we must fast for *at least 3 hours before the beginning of the service.* ESSENTIALLY, THIS MEANS NOT EATING AFTER LUNCH

UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE EUCHARIST, IF POSSIBLE. Finally, of course, those who are under a doctor's care or are infirm must follow the doctor's orders. If you have any question about this, please see me.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Fr. Matthew Baker. Fr. Thomas Hopko. Charles & Susan Balisen.

Living: Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Matt & Lori Algar. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Tim & Christina Bracey. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Tammy Hall. Heather Harris. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Dawn & Warren Kieffer. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Theresa Niester. Margie Pecuch. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel. Julia Worobey.

At Home: Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. George & Anna Senich. Kathryn Stocoski.

Assisted Living Homes: Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts.

The following listings were inadvertently omitted from last week's bulletin for last week:

Eternal Light: Charles and Susan Balisen by family.

Altar Vigil Candles: Charles and Susan Balisen by family.

Panachida: Charles and Susan Balisen by family.

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, well-known pastor, theologian, educator and spiritual guide for many people, fell asleep in the Lord March 18, 2015. More information below.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Food Collection Project: This past week, 6 boxes of food were delivered to the NEPA Bread Basket. They were very thankful for our continued generosity and thank the members of our parish for remembering those in need.

The food donation container continues to be available in the Church Hall. Please help fill this container with non-perishable food items: cans, dry goods, etc. This is an ongoing good thing.

PARISH STUFF

Tomb Vigil Sign up Sheet As in past years, we are asking folks to sign up for the Great Friday-Saturday Tomb Vigil. The Sign-up sheet is in the church vestibule.

Last Pirohi Sale: will be on April 3. Thanks so much to all who have worked so hard for this project.

Church School meets today.

Our Lenten Mission today! 3:00 PM *Lenten Vespers*, Fr. Bob preaching. The Altar Society is coordinating the Lenten Mission Meal. Thanks to all of you who have donated to and helped with the Lenten meal. It is good that we can offer our guests proper Christian hospitality. God bless you all!

<i>Lenten Mission Meal Menu</i>	
Tuna Salad Sandwiches	Pirohi
Egg Salad Sandwiches	2 Soups (crackers)
Haluški	Pasta Salad
	Fruit Salad
	Desserts

Auditor 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.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Eternal Memory! For **Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko**, 3/28/39 - 3/18/15. (*From <http://www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org/frhopko>*) Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, Dean Emeritus of Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary,

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH	
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH	
MARCH 15, 2015	
\$ 719.00	General Collection
\$ 94.00	7 Day Light
\$ 460.00	Church Dues
\$ 161.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 13.00	Tapered Candles
\$ 10.00	Vigil Light
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 5.00	Iocc
\$1,469.00	Total Collection

Crestwood, NY, and noted Orthodox Christian priest, theologian, preacher, and speaker, fell asleep in the Lord on the afternoon of March 18, 2015.

Father Thomas was the beloved husband of Matushka Anne [Schmemann] Hopko. They were married on June 9, 1963. Together, Father Thomas and Anne are the parents of five children, sixteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas John Hopko was born in Endicott, NY, on March 28, 1939, the third child and only son of John J. Hopko and Anna [Zapotocky] Hopko. He was baptized and raised in Saint Mary's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church and educated in Endicott public schools, graduating from Union-Endicott High School in 1956.

Father Thomas graduated from Fordham University in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in Russian studies. He graduated with a theological degree from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1963, from Duquesne University with a master's degree in philosophy in 1969, and earned his doctorate degree in theology from Fordham University in 1982.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood in August 1963, Father Thomas served the following parishes as pastor: Saint John the Baptist Church, Warren, OH (1963–1968); Saint Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls, NY (1968–1978); and Saint Nicholas Church, Jamaica Estates, NY (1978–1983). Father Thomas was honored with the clerical rank of Archpriest in 1970 and the rank of Protopresbyter in 1995.

Beginning in 1968, Father Thomas began his long service to Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Over the years, Father Thomas held the following positions: Lecturer in Doctrine and Pastoral Theology, 1968–1972; Assistant Professor of Dogmatic Theology, 1972–1983; Associate Professor of Dogmatic Theology, 1983–1991; Professor of Dogmatic Theology, 1991–1992; Dean, Rector of Three Hierarchs Chapel, and Professor of Dogmatic Theology, 1992–2002.

During his years of priestly ministry, Father Thomas authored numerous books and articles. Most well known of these publications is *The Orthodox Faith: An Elementary Handbook on the Orthodox Church*. A prolific speaker and preacher, he spoke at conferences, retreats, public lectures, and Church

gatherings of all kinds, many of which were recorded. Father Thomas performed countless duties on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America, including representing the Church at intra-Orthodox gatherings and ecumenical meetings.

Upon retirement, Father Thomas and Anne moved to Ellwood City, PA, where they lived near the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, and Father Thomas began a new ministry: internet-based Orthodox Christian radio talks. Since 2008, Father Thomas had produced well over 400 podcasts for Ancient Faith Radio.

Father Thomas exercised untiring and loving pastoral care on behalf many who sought him out for spiritual guidance. His greatest desire was that every person would respond to these words of Jesus Christ: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Father Thomas is survived by his wife, Matushka Anne, and their five children: Archpriest John Hopko and his wife Macrina, of Terryville, CT; Juliana and husband Gregory Thetford, of Ellwood City, PA; Catherine and husband Raymond Mandell, of Clearfield, PA; Mary and husband Archpriest Nicholas Solak, of East Stroudsburg, PA; and Alexandra and husband Joseph Sedor, of Ellicott City, MD. He is also survived by two sisters, Mary Ann Macko of Endwell, NY, and Barbara McPherson of Sayre, PA and Frostproof, FL. Additionally, Father Thomas is survived by 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as many, many other dear relatives, colleagues, and friends.

Visitation and Funeral Schedule for Protopresbyter Thomas J. Hopko can be found at: the website above. Please keep his devoted wife, Matushka Anne, his children, relatives and loved ones in your prayers!

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

Just in time for Easter, **Saint Cyril's Choir**, (Fund-raiser) has "The Traditional Ukrainian Lenten Songs and Easter Anthems" CD, sung in Church Slavonic is available for purchase. (\$15.00 each CD) it starts with Greetings by the Late Rev. Archpriest Stephen Hrynuik. Over 30 Choir members sing over 20 "Traditional Ukrainian Lenten Songs and Easter Anthems" Also released in a new format is the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, celebrated by the Late Monsignor Stephen Hrynuik and sung by St. Cyril's Choir, The historical DVD is available for \$20.00 each. The Easter Music CD and "The Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Carols" CD are available for \$15.00 each. Please contact Glenda Marcinko at 570-876-2888. All items can be mailed for additional cost, depending on the quantity and destination. Available for pick up after the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. will have their INTERNATIONAL DINNER on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Seatings will be at 5:30 and 6:30pm. The menu this month is called

"Southern Delight". The dinner will start off with a Hearty Lentil Soup and the Entree will be a delicious Beef Bourguignonne served with Mushroom Brown Rice and Sauteed Creole Green Beans. The dessert is Peach Cobbler Supreme. Coffee, Tea Soda and Water are included with your meal and a Cash Bar is Available. Featured Alcoholic Beverage: Southern Comfort Cocktails. The cost is \$20.00 per person and the deadline will be April 6th.

Altar Boy Retreat – This is an early Heads' Up. This year's Altar Boy Retreat will take place June 28 – July 1. Registration Forms, info, etc., will be available after Pascha.

Family Camp at Camp Nazareth June 5 – June 6. The Registration Form, Flyer and Schedule are all available on the Camp website: campnazareth.org. Planned are a variety of activities and events that will allow your family the opportunity to learn together, have fun together, pray together and simply be together in the peaceful environment of the Camp. Families will be staying together, and have to themselves a Camp cabin; plenty of space to rest and relax and simply be together during and after the weekend's festivities. Don't miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Come and help us to make this an ongoing and rewarding event for our Diocesan families. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so please send in your registration forms soon. They are due by Friday, May 22, 2015.

4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: ST JOHN CLIMACUS (OF THE LADDER)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to St John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of St Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

Next Week: An article on the 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste.