

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 3.2

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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March 8, 2015

### SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

#### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 8 *Archbishop Gregory Palamas.*  
Martyred Bishop Polycarp of Smyrna.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

*Church School Meets*

*Men's Club Regular Monthly Meeting.*

3:00 PM Lenten Mission – Vespers at St.  
Nicholas, Lansford, PA – Fr. Nik  
preaching.

**Wed., Mar 11 Great-martyr Photine, the  
Samaritan Woman**

7:30 AM *Extra Session Pirohi Prep*

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**Thu., Mar 12 Confessor Procopius**

8:00 AM *Extra Session Pirohi Making*

Fri., Mar 13 Confessor Basil

*FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ALL SOULS' SATURDAY*

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Vespers for the Deceased with  
Hramoty (Reading of the Names of the  
Deceased)

Sun., Mar 15 *Commemoration of the Holy  
Archbishop Gregory Palamas.*  
Martyred Bishop Polycarp.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

3:00 PM Lenten Mission – St. Mary, Dickson  
City – Moleben to the Holy Cross – Fr.  
Larry preaching.

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

**All Souls' Saturdays & Vespers for the Deceased:**  
This week we again celebrate the Vespers for the  
Deceased on Friday evening. During this service, we  
pray for the deceased, and we remember those by  
name who are listed in the *Hramoty*. All are  
encouraged to participate in this service to pray for  
your loved ones.

#### 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:*

*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. Margaret. Dawn & Warren Kieffer. Anna Mae Kuklis. Dee Lositski. Dan, Teri, Nadia & Roman Ludwig. Peggy Majcher. Theresa Niester. John Polanichka. Emma Sacco. Amy Shimo. Connie Lou Slater. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tighe. 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.

***Congratulations and God Bless!*** Teri Ludwig gave birth to twins Roman and Nadia on March 4. All is well with mom and children so far. Please keep Teri, Dan and children in your prayers. Many years!

***Special Note on the falling asleep of Fr. Matthew Baker.*** Some of our parishioners knew Fr. Matthew and his family when he was at St. Tikhon's, and so I am including the following. He also attended Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown and was known to others in our diocese.. I never had the privilege of knowing Fr. Matthew, but apparently he was a man of great talent, ability, and love. Here are a couple of brief statements about this remarkable man:

*From Fr. Jonathan Tobias:*

Your Grace, and dear Fathers,  
Glory to Jesus Christ!

With great sadness I share with you the tragic news that my good friend and former seminary

student Fr Matthew Baker fell asleep in the Lord last night.

He was on his way home from serving vespers in his church (GOA) in Norwich Connecticut, in a van with his six children. There was an accident having to do with the snow. His children are okay, but Fr Matthew was thrown from the van and was pronounced dead at the scene.

I remember meeting Matthew and his wife Katie on their first day at Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown. It was just the two of them. We ate lunch together, talking about Christianity in the stories of Flannery O'Connor, with the September sun gleaming into the windows.

Now, there is only Katie and six children, without their wonderful husband, father and genuinely loving priest.

Matthew was the finest, most intelligent Orthodox theologian I have ever known first hand. The Orthodox Church in America needed this young man dearly, and we will miss this brilliant scholar dearly.

Please remember him and the family in your prayers.

In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, to the soul of your servant, the Presbyter Matthew, eternal rest and remember him forever: I sotvori jemu, vicnuju pamjat!

In the eternal love and peace of Christ,

Fr Jonathan Tobias

*From <http://www.gofundme.com/nizf2g>*

Reporters have been calling Fr. Matthew's friends, asking why there has been such an outpouring of love and support for a seemingly obscure graduate student and young Greek Orthodox priest. In part, the response is simply in proportion to the human tragedy: any charitable heart is moved to compassion and action at the thought of a young widow with six young children, bereft of husband, father, and provider for life. In part, the response comes from who the Bakers are, even today: a remarkable, self-sacrificing family dedicated to service and faith.

Still more comes as a direct result of Fr. Matthew's own humility and generosity during his short life.

He had absolutely no money to give, but he gave abundantly of what he did have to offer. He shared his intellectual and spiritual gifts with no concern for personal gain; he gave of his time and heart; he helped countless people in personal struggles, spiritual development, and intellectual growth. Students who took his course last year at Hellenic College in Brookline, MA reported that it was the most formative experience of their college career.

Every discipline of art or science, every field of human activity, has 2 or maybe 3 people from each generation who become world leaders within their field. Many people who knew Fr. Matthew felt he was bound to grow into such a person. For those of us in the Orthodox Church who currently have young families, he was our next great voice. We expected to rely on his counsel for years. We had hoped he would teach our own children. We had counted on reading his books. And we were looking forward to the day when his mature voice would emerge, transcending even our own Orthodox tradition and reaching out to the world with a vision that engaged people of various beliefs and practices.

In some ways, the unexpectedly large outpouring of love in the wake of his death – from people of many religious backgrounds – is proof that Fr. Matthew's promise was already becoming reality. But so much more has been lost.

As you might imagine, being a newly-ordained priest, living in one of the most expensive areas of the country, Fr. Matthew and his family had virtually no financial resources, and now their only income is gone. A fund has been set up for those who would like to honor Fr. Matthew's memory by helping out his family. You can contribute in one of two ways:

- 1) You can go to the website: <http://www.gofundme.com/nizf2g> where you will be able to contribute and also see further information about Fr. Matthew and his family.
- 2) You can send a check directly to Metropolis of Boston, c/o Fr. Matthew Baker Fund, 162 Goddard Ave., Brookline, MA 02445.

Please keep Presbyteria Katherine and their 6 children in your prayers as they go through this time of sorrow. To Fr. Matthew, eternal memory!

<b>YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH</b>	
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH	
MARCH 1, 2015	
\$ 276.00	General Collection
\$ 57.00	1st Sunday
\$ 58.00	7 Day Light
\$ 2.00	Holy Days
\$ 92.00	Church Dues
\$ 10.00	Taper Candles
\$ 2.00	Maintenance & Repairs
<b>\$ 497.00</b>	<b>Total</b>

**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**

**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.

**Pirohi Sales:** *Extra Pirohi Making this week:* Because of the large orders we have been having, folks have agreed to have an extra pirohi making session this week (there will be no Sale this Friday). We will do the usual two bags. For working schedule, please see the *Parish Calendar*. Thanks to all of you who have been willing to work so hard for the parish. If anyone else can come down this week and give us a hand, it would be appreciated.

**Lenten Missions:** Everyone is encouraged to participate in at least one Mission (besides our own – I expect *everyone* to be here for that). They are a good way to stay in Lent.

- March 8 @ St. Nicholas, Lansford: Lenten Vespers, Fr. Nik preaching.
- March 15 @ St. Mary, Dickson City: Moleben to the Cross, Fr. Larry preaching.
- **March 22 @ St. Nicholas, Scranton:** Lenten Vespers, Fr. Bob preaching.

**Our Lenten Mission Sunday, March 22:** The Altar Society is coordinating the Lenten Mission Meal. The menu below is already donated by various parishioners. Some other donations have already come in. We are still welcoming other donations to help cover the cost. Please see Carol Pugh, Carol Wassel, or Maryann Polanichka to find out what they still need. Thank you for your help

*Lenten Mission Meal Menu*

Tuna Salad Sandwiches  
Egg Salad Sandwiches  
2 Soups (crackers)  
Pasta Salad  
Fruit Salad  
Desserts

**Men's Club** regular monthly meeting is today.

**Church School** meets today.

**Parish Board** regular monthly meeting is next Sunday.

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

**FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF**

**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.

**St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church**, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. "INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB" will celebrate with an Irish Menu on Thursday, March 12, 2015 with seatings at 5:30 or 6:30pm. The cost is only \$20.00 per person and reservations can be made at 570-343-5151. The menu will have Fresh Baked Irish Soda Bread and Guinness Onion Soup served with Irish Cheddar Croutons, Irish Pub Salad and Honey Glazed Corned Beef served with purple potatoes and Irish Colcannon (winter vegetable casserole). The dessert will be Irish Apple Whiskey Cake. Coffee, tea, water, soda Included and a Cash Bar is available. Try our specially made Irish Coffee with dessert!

**"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.