

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 3.3

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

March 15, 2015

VENERATION OF THE HOLY AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Mar 15 *Veneration of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross* Martyred Bishop Theodotus of Cyrene.

8:45 – 9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Parish Board meets.

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

Wed., Mar 18 Martyr Conon

7:30 AM *Pirohi Prep*

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Thu., Mar 19 42 Martyrs of Ammonium.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Mar 20 Martyred Bishops Basil, Efrem et al.

FOR THE 4TH 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. 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.

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

All Souls' Saturdays & Vespers for the Deceased: This week is the last All-Souls Saturday for the Lenten Season. 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:

Deceased: Fr. Matthew Baker.

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.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
MARCH 8, 2015

\$1004.84	General Collection
\$ 77.00	1st Sunday
\$ 79.00	7 Day Light
\$1756.00	Pirohi
\$ 2.00	Holy Days
\$ 362.00	Church Dues
\$ 60.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 18.00	Tapered Candles
\$ 50.00	Iocc
\$3408.84	Total Collection

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

Parish Board regular monthly meeting is today.

Pirohi Sales: *Regularly Scheduled Pirohi Sale this week:* 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.

Church School meets next Sunday.

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 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
- Haluški
- Pirohi
- 2 Soups (crackers)

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.

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.

"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.

HEARTY STONE SOUP TEACHES LESSON ABOUT SHARING AMONG COMMUNITY

By Josh Mcauliffe

Scranton Times-Tribune

March 11, 2015

Nancy Frank had just the right idea for showing her junior Sunday school students at First Baptist Church of Hollisterville how to be kind, compassionate Christians.

She had them prepare a big, steaming pot of soup — Stone Soup, they call it.

The soup is this week's featured recipe for the Local Flavor: Recipes We Love contest, earning Mrs. Frank and the kids a \$100 gift certificate from Ray's ShurSave Supermarkets, which has locations in Old Forge, Waymart, Factoryville and Montrose.

Now, don't let the name disconcert you. Stone Soup is not actually chock-full of inedible rocks. Rather, it's a delicious and nourishing chicken soup that includes ham hock and lots of veggies.

The name Stone Soup comes from a well-known folk tale Mrs. Frank used as the jumping off point for a recent project for her fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade

students at the church.

There are several variations on the “Stone Soup” story. The one Mrs. Frank shared with her class involves a soldier venturing into an impoverished village in post-World War II Eastern Europe, where the residents zealously hoard their food.

After learning the village had nothing to eat for him, the soldier explains he has everything he needs, then proceeds to drop a single stone into a giant cauldron full of water. Eventually, the villagers come out of their homes and, thanks to the soldier’s enthusiasm and pronouncements about certain ingredients adding flavor to the soup, begin dropping their hoarded items into the pot. Before long, they’ve created a wonderful meal.

“The main message of the story is that, through sharing, the greater good can be accomplished,” Mrs. Frank said.

Playing off the theme, Mrs. Frank decided to have the students prepare a pot of Stone Soup instead of the usual decorations and crafts she usually has them make for Christmas.

“We thought this would be something more meaningful to do — sharing our faith and taking some action,” said Mrs. Frank, a Lake Henry resident.

On a snow day in December, the kids showed up at the church with one or two ingredients each — potatoes, carrots, onions, cabbage, green beans and frozen sweet corn from a nearby family farm. Over a couple hours, the kids prepped the ingredients with Mrs. Frank’s assistance.

“They really had a good time, especially with the food processor,” Mrs. Frank said with a laugh.

The ingredients went into a big pot filled with chicken broth Mrs. Frank prepared ahead of time. When they finished making the soup, the group poured it into plastic containers they then placed into bags student Lydia Sheridan, 9, had decorated. The bags also included a large soup mug, a copy of the “Stone Soup” story and a stone with scripture written on it. During a Christmas caroling excursion, the kids passed out the bags out to about a dozen families and individuals in the community.

“Some are widows or widowers, or people just living alone. They were incredibly grateful,” Mrs. Frank said. “It was amazing the thank-you notes we

received. They were so appreciative. The notes were very detailed and personal.”

“I thought it was pretty fun. I had a good time doing it,” said student Daniel Black, 10, noting the hardest part of the project was skinning the potatoes “without dropping them.”

“I liked getting the card that said how good the soup was,” added Lydia, one of six children of church pastor Jim Sheridan and his wife, Mary.

Since then, the project has taken on a life of its own. For Valentine’s Day, Mrs. Frank and the kids made a beef stew they called A Hearty Stew for You. They also distributed the pot of Stone Soup prepared last week for Local Flavor. (The proportions in the recipe Mrs. Frank provided to Local Flavor has been cut in half from the one her class used.)

Pastor Sheridan joked that the church now has its own “Soup Distribution Department.” But there’s a real need for this kind of outreach, he said, and he was thrilled to see Mrs. Frank and the kids carry out the project with such enthusiasm.

“It’s not something people ask for, but they certainly appreciate it,” he said. “It’s a tangible expression of God’s love. Showing some love and grace and mercy to people, that goes a long way.”

C o n t a c t t h e w r i t e r :
jmcauliffe@timeshamrock.com, @jmcauliffeTT on
Twitter

3RD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: VENERATION OF THE CROSS

from www.oca.org

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ’s redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. “He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both “the power of God and the wisdom of God” for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).