

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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THOMAS SUNDAY

April 19, 2015

Christ Is Risen! Christos Voskrese! Christos Anesti! Feltamadt Krisztus Al Massih Kam!

Indeed He Is Risen! Vo Istinu Voskrese! Alithos Anesti! Valoban Felta-madott! Hakkan Kam!

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Apr. 19 THOMAS SUNDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 199–200. Music for “The Angel Exclaimed” on 195 & for the Greek “Christ is Risen” on 196.

Panachida: John Hafich by Pucher family.

Church School Meets

Men’s Club regular monthly meeting

Sun., Apr. 26 SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING

WOMEN. Priest-martyr Artemon et al.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 200–201

Parish Board Meets

Panachida: Patti Prestash - 40 day mem.

Confessions: Before Divine Liturgy

FASTING AND FEASTING

PASCHAL SEASON: The traditional rules of fasting state that we return to the ordinary Wednesday & Friday fast after Thomas Sunday.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Fr. Matthew Baker. Fr. Thomas Hopko.

Living: Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Matt & Lori Algar. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Tim & Christina Bracey. Bob Chalk. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Ted Goosley. Tammy Hall. Heather Harris. Robert &

Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Dawn & Warren Kieffer. Anna Mae Kuklis. John Lange. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Theresa Niester. Margie Pecuch. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. Emma Sacco. JoyAnn Scarnato. 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.

Altar Vigil Lights: Memory of Susan & Charles Balisen by Amy Weitach and John B. Sakulich.

Eternal Light: Memory of Mary Snell by family.

PARISH STUFF

Men’s Club: The regular monthly meeting has been moved to today.

Parish Board: The regular monthly meeting has been moved to next Sunday, April 26.

Altar Society: will hold its regular meeting on Sunday, May 3.

Receiving the Holy Eucharist reminder: In order to help with making sure that the Eucharist is received properly and does not drop or spill, I remind you all of the following:

1. Stand as close to the step as you can so that I do not have to reach.
2. Let the servers hold the communion cloth under your chin. Do not pull it down or away from you.
3. Bless yourself *after* you have stepped away from the chalice.
4. Remove lipstick, etc., before approaching the chalice.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

APRIL 12, 2015

\$ 251.00	General Collection
\$ 206.00	7 Day Light
\$ 330.00	Holy Days
\$ 24.00	Tapered Candles
\$2730.00	Easter
\$ 5.00	Palm Sunday
\$ 2.00	Flowers
\$ 40.00	Decorated Candles
\$ 60.00	Patriarchal Pence
\$3648.00	Total Collection

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Ongoing Food Collection Project: 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.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Breast Cancer Benefit for Jean Marie Jones: this Benefit Dinner and Basket Raffle will be held Sunday, April 19, 2015, at Keyser Valley Community Center, 103 N Keyser Ave, Scranton. The Dinner menu:

Pasta, meatballs, salad, roll, dessert, & coffee or tea

Dinner served from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Dine-In or Take-Out. Raffle to start @ 5:30 PM~ you do not have to be present to claim prize. Tickets \$10 per dinner. Info at 570-344-3202 or <http://www.wherevent.com/detail/Mary-Graff-Conrad-Jean-Marie-Jones-Pasta-Dinner-Basket-Raffle-Benefit>.

Young Women's Encounter: The YWE event runs concurrently with our Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat.

If there are any women in the parish who would desire to serve as volunteer chaperones during the event, you are encouraged to contact Pani Eleni Stagon as soon as

possible at Eleniee@yahoo.com or 304-296-4319.

The following is from His Grace, Bishop Gregory:

Protocol N. 10/2015

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Diocesan Parents and Children,

This summer, our Diocese is happy to host the 2nd Annual Young Women's Encounter! The YWE is designed specifically for our Diocesan young women. The Young Women's Encounter will provide an opportunity for the young women of our Diocese to spend time in each others' company, have fun, pray together, and learn about how God calls each woman to serve His church with her unique talents and abilities.

The Young Women's Encounter will take place from Sunday, June 28th to Wednesday, July 1st, 2015. The YWE will be held at the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Christian Church in Windber, Pennsylvania. Young women in our Diocese ages 12-18 are encouraged to attend. Please do not miss this opportunity for the girls of our Church and Diocese to gather with one another and grow in their faith.

Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible. Registration forms will be made available in the coming weeks & space is again limited to the first 30 young women.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer at our youth events! Working in His vineyard with much love,

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

Camp Nazareth Family Day Raffle Tickets! We now have the raffle tickets for the annual Camp Family Day. \$20 each. Please see Nick Polanichka for yours before they run out!

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. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so please send in your registration forms

soon. They are due by Friday, May 22, 2015.

Wilkes-Barre Greek Food Festival! Wed., May 6 – Sat., May 9, 11 AM to 8 PM daily! Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 32 East Ross St. 570-823-4805. <http://greekfoodfestival.webs.com>. See flyer in hall for details!

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Center International Dinner Club, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. will be visiting "France" on Thursday May 14th, 2015. Seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Reservations at 570-343-5151. Deadline is May 11. \$20.00 per person .The menu: a classic Bistro Salad including Bitter Frisee, crispy bacon, poached egg and topped w/ a sherry Dijon vinaigrette, followed by Coq Au Vin (Frenched Airline Chicken, braised w/wine and mushroom sauce) with Tartiffette (French Bacon Potato and Reblochon cheese casserole) and Green beans w/spring onions and carrots. The dessert is Cherry Clafoutis (Pitted black cherries in a thick flan-like batter, dusted w/powdered sugar and served w/mint whipped cream. Water, Soda, Coffee and Tea included. Cash Bar is available.

BRIGHT WEEK

From <http://www.orthowiki.org> & http://www.orthodox.net/questions/bright_week_1.html

Bright Week or Renewal Week is the first week following the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is celebrated each year at Pascha. It ends the following Sunday, the Sunday of St. Thomas. For Orthodox Christians Bright Week begins a period of celebration that continues for fifty days until Pentecost.

This celebration includes the practice of the faithful joyously greeting each other with the salutation of *Christ is risen!*, followed by the response *Indeed He is risen!* as the whole of creation is renewed by Our Lord and Savior. The services of Bright Week are done with the Royal Doors fully open. This unblocked view of the altar symbolizes the open door of Christ's empty tomb as well as the rent veil of the Jewish Temple, which was torn apart at the moment Christ died.

The entire week is considered to be one continuous day. This is the main reason why fasting is completely prohibited to all Orthodox during the week.

Liturgical Changes

If it is necessary to conduct a funeral during Bright Week, this service follows the format for Paschal Matins, with only a few funeral hymns being chanted. [This is why Memorial Services like Panachidas are not celebrated this week]. It is held that those Orthodox Christians who die in penitence during this time are released from the bonds of their sins and are accepted into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The prayer to the Holy Spirit, "O Heavenly King", said in almost every Orthodox prayer service is NOT said from Paschal matins (the first service of the Pentecostarion), which begins at midnight on the Sunday of Pascha, until the Vespers service for Pentecost. Anywhere this prayer occurs it is omitted, and until Ascension Thursday, is substituted with the Paschal troparion (*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life*), sung three times. We are like the Apostles during this period, "waiting" for the Holy Spirit to come, and the absence of this prayer makes a strong statement of our profound need for the Holy Spirit.

News from the ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Pastoral Practice Committee Pursues Ambitious
Agenda** – From goarch.org Dateline Thursday,
April 16, 2015

Can Orthodox weddings be celebrated on Saturdays? Are group confessions permissible? How are catechumens prepared for reception into the Church?

The answers to these questions and others depend on which Orthodox jurisdiction you call home. While there are vast areas of agreement in the Orthodox Church, there are variations in practice across jurisdictions in the United States as pertain to baptism, marriage, confession, and other sacraments of the Church.

As the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America strives to manifest the unity of Orthodoxy, it is necessary to develop a common understanding among its member bishops regarding pastoral practice.

Such is the goal of the Committee for Pastoral Practice (CPP), one of 14 Assembly committees. The CPP is responsible for identifying the differences and inconsistencies among the various jurisdictions in their exercise of sacramental and pastoral praxis and for proposing models for resolution consistent with canonical practice.

The Chairman of the committee is Metropolitan Joseph (AOCA). Its members are Bishop Sevastianos (GOA), Bishop Theodosy (ROCOR), and Bishop Mark (OCA). Seventeen consultants serve the committee as well as a facilitator and liaison.

"The work of this committee is very important," said Metropolitan Joseph, "since it helps us to fulfill the command of St. Paul to the elders of the Church: 'Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood' (Acts 20:28) This is the spirit with which we pursue this task, for the building up of the Holy Orthodox Church in this land."

The first part of the committee's task—identifying the practices currently in use and establishing comparative lists—has been completed. The committee began its work in 2011 by identifying 11 fields of pastoral practice to be surveyed. The committee requested, from each jurisdiction, the official written procedures for each of these fields. Analysis of the documents revealed that many jurisdictions have no centrally articulated, official, written policy for certain fields of pastoral practice.

With that information, the committee decided to focus on six areas where adequate documentary data could be gathered: baptism, chrismation and conversion; marriage; confession/communion; holy unction/anointing; funerals and memorials. A matrix of topics for each area of practice was developed and then a questionnaire sent to the chanceries of each member jurisdiction of the Assembly.

The questionnaire had two purposes: to give all jurisdictions the opportunity to verify the Committee's findings, and to give each jurisdiction the opportunity to provide information that the Committee was not able to discover from the documents it had collected.

The committee now faces the final part of its assignment: where differences in practice do exist, to

propose models for resolution that are consistent with canonical practice.

To prepare for this formidable task the committee held a meeting at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA, November 3-5, 2014. One of the outcomes was the formation of six subcommittees that correspond with the six areas of practice. The subcommittees—led by a hierarch and comprised of consultants—are now revisiting areas of consensus and divergence and developing recommendations. The subcommittees will share their recommendations at a meeting scheduled for May 2015, with the goal of producing a final report with recommendations.

The committee recognizes and desires that each subcommittee should be as broadly representative as possible—a microcosm of American Orthodoxy. With that in mind, the subcommittees will consult with others to ensure that all opinions are represented.

One other outcome of the November meeting was the decision to simultaneously address the issue of infant loss (miscarriages) and infant death before baptism. In some churches, responses to these situations have been well developed, but universally accepted practices do not exist. A subcommittee on Pregnancy and Infant Loss met at Antiochian Village March 12-14, 2015 and is preparing a guide for clergy, addressing basic medical information, pastoral care, advocacy, and suggested prayers and services. The committee hopes to present the clergy guide to the full Assembly for review at its annual meeting in September 2015.

ANTIPASCHA: ST THOMAS SUNDAY

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" [*Voskresenije*] in Church Slavonic, and "the Lord's Day" [*Kyriake*] in Greek.