

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., Pastor

Rectory: 570-344-5917

Cell: 724-953-6046

nferencz35@gmail.com

www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org

Jane Togher, Board President

570-842-3311

jtogher@yahoo.com

Madelyn Hodanich, Choir Director

Hall - 570-344-1522

### SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

April 26, 2015

Christ Is Risen! Christos Voskrese! Christos Anesti! Feltamadt Krisztus Al Massih Kam!  
Indeed He Is Risen! Vo Istinu Voskrese! Alithos Anesti! Valoban Feltamadott! Hakkan Kam!

#### PARISH CALENDAR

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.

Sun., May 3 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 202–203. Music for “The Angel Exclaimed” on 195 & for the Greek “Christ is Risen” on 196.

Panachida: Fr. Matthew Baker and Fr. Thomas Hopko – 40-day memorial

*Church School Meets*

*Altar Society meets*

**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. Emma Sacco.

**Living:** Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Matt, Lori & Nathan 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. 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.

**Congratulations and God Bless!** Lori Algar gave birth to Nathan Matthew on April 16. All is well with mom and son. Please keep Lori, Matt & Nathan in your prayers. Many years!

**Eternal Memory!** Emma Sacco, sister of Betty Davies, fell asleep in the Lord on April 16. We will celebrate the 40-day memorial on Sunday, May 24. Please pray for Emma and her family.

#### PARISH STUFF

**Parish Board:** The regular monthly meeting will be held today.

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

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

APRIL 19, 2015

\$ 341.00	General Collection
\$ 3.00	1st Sunday
\$ 69.00	7 Day Light
\$ 33.00	Holy Days
\$ 13.00	Taper Candles
\$ 10.00	Vigil Light
\$ 25.00	Easter
\$ 68.00	Mission Donation
\$ 5.00	Flowers
\$ 5.00	Palm Sunday
\$ 20.00	Decorated Candles
\$ 592.00	<b>Total Collection</b>

### 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

**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](http://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.

**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 [Elenie@yahoo.com](mailto:Elenie@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

**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.

**ST. TIKHON PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE**

**Friday, May 22, 2015**

3:30 pm Official Opening of the 111th Pilgrimage Greeting of the Hawaiian Myrrh Streaming Icon with Moleben in the Church

4:00 pm Vespers and Matins in the Monastery Church  
All pilgrims are invited to dinner in the monastery dining hall following the services.

**Saturday, May 23, 2015**

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
A meal for all pilgrims in the Monastery dining hall following services

1:00 pm 73rd Annual Academic Commencement of Saint Tikhon’s Theological Seminary

4:30 pm Resurrection Vigil in the Monastery Church  
Dinner in the monastery dining hall for all pilgrims following the services.

**Sunday, May 24, 2015**

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
A meal for all pilgrims in the Monastery dining hall following services .

4:00 pm Vespers and Matins in the Monastery Church

**Monday, May 25, 2015**

7:30 am Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church

10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

12:15 pm Veteran’s Pannikhida and Memorial Service, All Saints Bell Tower

1:30 pm Akathist to Saint Alexis Toth in the Monastery Church

2:30 pm Molieben to the Most Holy Theotokos and Anointing of the Sick, Infirm and all Pilgrims at the Monastery Bell Tower

4:00 pm Vespers and Matins in the Monastery Church  
Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Theotokos to Visit Memorial Day Weekend

**St. Tikhon’s Monastery 111<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Pilgrimage** May 22 – May 25

Come join us this Memorial day Pilgrimage and venerate the Miraculous Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Hawaii. She arrives Saturday afternoon and will be with us through Monday night. A healing unction service for the sick will be held with the Icon on Monday at 2:30 pm at the All Saints Bell Tower Chapel. The event is open to the general public. Bring a friend!

**BRIGHT FRIDAY: THE LIFE GIVING SPRING OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

from [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

On Bright Friday every year we commemorate the Life-Giving Spring of the Most Holy Theotokos.

There once was a beautiful church in Constantinople dedicated to the Mother of God, which had been built in the fifth century by the holy Emperor Leo the Great (January 20) in the Seven Towers district.

Before becoming emperor, Leo was walking in a wooded area where he met a blind man who was thirsty and asked Leo to help him find water. Though he agreed to search for water, he was unable to find any. Suddenly, he heard a voice telling him that there was water nearby. He looked again, but still could not find the water. Then he heard the voice saying “Emperor Leo, go into the deepest part of the woods, and you will find water there. Take some of the cloudy water in your hands and give it to the blind man to drink. Then take the clay and put it on his eyes. Then you shall know who I am.” Leo obeyed these instructions, and the blind man regained his sight. Later, St Leo became emperor, just as the Theotokos had prophesied.

Leo built a church over the site at his own expense, and the water continued to work miraculous cures. Therefore, it was called “The Life-Giving Spring.”

After the Fall of Constantinople in 1453, the church was torn down by the Moslems, and the stones were used to build a mosque. Only a small chapel remained at the site of the church. Twenty-five steps led down into the chapel, which had a window in the

roof to let the light in. The holy Spring was still there, surrounded by a railing.

After the Greek Revolution in 1821, even this little chapel was destroyed and the Spring was buried under the rubble. Christians later obtained permission to rebuild the chapel, and work began in July of 1833. While workmen were clearing the ground, they uncovered the foundations of the earlier church. The Sultan allowed them to build not just a chapel, but a new and beautiful church on the foundations of the old one.

Construction began on September 14, 1833, and was completed on December 30, 1834. Patriarch Constantine II consecrated the church on February 2, 1835, dedicating it to the Most Holy Theotokos.

The Turks desecrated and destroyed the church again on September 6, 1955. A smaller church now stands on the site, and the waters of the Life-Giving Spring continue to work miracles.

#### FR THOMAS HOPKO'S 55 MAXIMS ON LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. Be always with Christ and trust God in everything.
2. Pray as you can, not as you think you must.
3. Have a keepable rule of prayer done by discipline.
4. Say the Lord's Prayer several times each day.
5. Repeat a short prayer when your mind is not occupied.
6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation and fast on fasting days.
8. Practice silence, inner and outer.
9. Sit in silence 20 to 30 minutes each day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.
11. Go to liturgical services regularly.
12. Go to confession and holy communion regularly.
13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings.
14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings to a trusted person regularly.
15. Read the scriptures regularly.
16. Read good books, a little at a time.
17. Cultivate communion with the saints.
18. Be an ordinary person, one of the human race.
19. Be polite with everyone, first of all family members.
20. Maintain cleanliness and order in your home.
21. Have a healthy, wholesome hobby.
22. Exercise regularly.
23. Live a day, even a part of a day, at a time.
24. Be totally honest, first of all with yourself.
25. Be faithful in little things.
26. Do your work, then forget it.
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first.
28. Face reality.
29. Be grateful.
30. Be cheerful.
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and attentive, fully present where you are.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. Speak simply, clearly, firmly, directly.
37. Flee imagination, fantasy, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, grumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't seek or expect pity or praise.
41. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
42. Don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God, not people.
46. Accept criticism gracefully and test it carefully.
47. Give advice only when asked or when it is your duty.
48. Do nothing for people that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, and never on darkness, temptation and sin.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your faults serenely, under God's mercy.
54. When you fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear or shame.

Fr. Tom expounded further on this at:  
[http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/hopko/lent\\_the\\_tithe\\_of\\_the\\_year](http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/hopko/lent_the_tithe_of_the_year)