

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICEA.

HOLY APOSTLES TO THE SLAVS SS CYRIL & METHODIUS.

May 24, 2015

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., May 24 SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE 1ST
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICEA.
HOLY APOSTLES TO THE SLAVS SS
CYRIL & METHODIUS.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – special sheets.

Panachida: Emma Sacco - 40 day

Men's Club Meets

Mon., May 25 Bishops Epiphanius & Germanus.

Memorial Day.

9:00 AM Graves Blessings, beginning at the
parish cemetery.

Sat., May 30 5TH ALL-SOULS SATURDAY. Apostles
Andronicus et al.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy and reading of the
Hramoty.

11:00 AM Holy Mysteries of Initiation – Nathan
Matthew Algar

Sun., May 31 PENTECOST SUNDAY

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp. 213–216.

Mon., June 1 FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.
Procession in honor of the Holy Spirit.
Panachida: Steve Roberts

Confessions: Before Divine Liturgy

FASTING AND FEASTING

The Feast of Pentecost is next Sunday, May 31.
There is *No Fasting* the week of Pentecost, from May
31 through June 6, as we celebrate this great feast.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: 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.

non-perishable food items: cans, dry goods, etc. This is an ongoing good thing.

PARISH STUFF

The **Men’s Club** regular monthly meeting is today.

Church Repairs: The plaster and paint repairs are complete. Additional work included a new railing on the stairs going to the choirloft. The plaster/paint work **cost is \$1550**. The railing will be a little bit more. Robert A Ritterbeck, Inc., did the work, and it is an excellent job (go up in the choir loft and try to find the places that he repaired. I can’t, and I know where they were). The Board is looking for donations to help offset the cost of this work. If you would like to donate toward this, please see Nick Polanichka.

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!

Altar Servers’ Retreat! Don’t forget that this annual event is also taking place in Johnstown from Sunday, June 28 through Wed., July 1. All information and registration forms can be found on our diocesan website, www.acrod.org. Our parish will again be covering the cost of going for any of our altar servers. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Nik.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH	
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH	
May 17, 2015	
\$ 993.14	General Collection
\$ 100.00	7 Day Light
\$ 15.00	Holy Days
\$ 92.00	Church Dues
\$ 209.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 12.00	Taper Candles
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$1428.14	Total Collection

The Young Women’s Encounter will take place from Sunday, June 28th to Wednesday, July 1st, 2015, running concurrently with the Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat. 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.

Grave Blessings on Memorial Day, May 25: I plan to begin at the parish cemetery at about 9:00 AM. Here is the tentative schedule:

- 9:00 AM Parish Cemetery
- 10:30-ish AM Abington Hills
- Noon-ish Fairview (in Elmhurst)
- 2:30-ish Nicholson

The above times are approximate. I have a couple of cell numbers that I can call when I am on my way to each place. Just hang out and I will get there.

Orthodox Christian Studies Center Benefit Cocktail Party Tuesday, June 17, 2014 | 6 – 8:30 p.m. Thalassa Restaurant | 179 Franklin St. | Tribeca, N.Y. The Orthodox Christian Studies Center has earned the most prestigious grant available for humanities-based scholarship in the United States: a National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) Matching Challenge Grant. The NEH will award the center \$500,000 if—and only if—Fordham raises \$1.5 million. Join us to celebrate winning the NEH Grant and to help raise our portion of the matching challenge. All proceeds go to the National Endowment for the Humanities Matching Challenge Grant: Enhancing Orthodox Christian Studies. Tickets include cocktails, authentic Greek food, live music, and entertainment. For more information, contact Valerie K. Longwood at 212-636-7439 or longwood@fordham.edu. For additional information,

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

please visit www.fordham.edu/orthodoxy.

Conference in Preparation for the Great and Holy Council of the Orthodox Church - Co-sponsored by the Orthodox Theological Society in America (OTSA) and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center. Friday, June 26 – Saturday, June 27, 2015. Fordham School of Law | 150 W. 62nd St. (between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues)| New York, N.Y. On-campus accommodation is available on campus on a first come, first served basis. To book, click "register online" below. To stay at the nearby Empire Hotel, call 212-265-7400 and ask for the "Fordham rate" (\$297 per night). REGISTER ONLINE. For more information, contact Jake Braithwaite at 212-636-7501 or braithwaite@fordham.edu.

St. Tikhon's Monastery 111th Memorial Day Pilgrimage May 22 – May 25. **Hi-Lite of the Pilgrimage:** the *Miraculous Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Hawaii* will present throughout the pilgrimage, with a healing unction service on Monday. The event is open to the general public. Bring a friend!

The Schedule is posted in the hall and has been listed for the past couple of weeks in the bulletin. You can also find it on St. Tikhon's website, <http://sttikhonsmonastery.org/>

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. will present "**THE TASTES OF ITALY**" on Thursday evening, June 11, 2015 with seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. The price is only \$20.00 per person. Please call with reservations to 570-343-5151 by June 8, 2015. The menu will start with Smoked Chicken Canneloni and an Insalata Salad. The Entree will be Veal Osso Bocco and the Dessert will be Fresh Summer Berries. Choice of Coffee, Tea, Soda or Water is included and a Cash Bar is available.

Old Fashioned Chicken Bar-B-Que AT St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. on Sunday, June 14, 2015 on the Church grounds from 11am to 4pm. Eat-in or Take-out. Adults \$12.00 and Children (under 10) \$6.00. All are welcome!!!

Slavic Festival at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. on Fri. Aug. 14 (4-10pm); Sat. Aug. 15 (3-10pm); Sun. Aug. 16 (12-5pm). There will be Live Entertainment Friday,

(Joe Stanky), Saturday, Doubleshot and Sunday, (D.J. Sara). Featuring Homemade Ethnic Foods, Carnival Foods, Clams, Homemade Soups, Beer Tent, Games, Raffles, White Elephant Sale and More!!!

EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES AND TEACHER OF THE SLAVS, CYRIL

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Equals of the Apostles, and Enlighteners of the Slavs came from an illustrious and pious family living in the Greek city of Thessalonica. St Methodius was the oldest of seven brothers, St Constantine [Cyril was his monastic name] was the youngest. At first St Methodius was in the military and was governor in one of the Slavic principalities dependent on the Byzantine Empire, probably Bulgaria, which made it possible for him to learn the Slavic language. After living there for about ten years, St Methodius later received monastic tonsure at one of the monasteries on Mount Olympus (Asia Minor).

St Constantine distinguished himself by his great aptitude, and he studied with the emperor Michael under the finest teachers in Constantinople, including St Photius, the future Patriarch of Constantinople (February 6).

St Constantine studied all the sciences of his time, and also knew several languages. He also studied the works of St Gregory the Theologian. Because of his keen mind and penetrating intellect, St Constantine was called "Philosopher" (wise). Upon the completion of his education, St Constantine was ordained to the holy priesthood and was appointed curator of the patriarchal library at the church of Hagia Sophia. He soon left the capital and went secretly to a monastery.

Discovered there, he returned to Constantinople, where he was appointed as instructor in philosophy. The young Constantine's wisdom and faith were so great that he won a debate with Ananias, the leader of the heretical iconoclasts. After this victory Constantine was sent by the emperor to discuss the Holy Trinity with the Saracens, and again he gained the victory. When he returned, St Constantine went to his brother St Methodius on Olympus, spending his time in unceasing prayer and reading the works of the holy Fathers.

The emperor soon summoned both of the holy

brothers from the monastery and sent them to preach the Gospel to the Khazars. Along the way they stayed in the city of Korsun, making preparations for their missionary activity. There the holy brothers miraculously discovered the relics of the hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome (November 25).

There in Korsun St Constantine found a Gospel and Psalter written in Russian letters [i.e. Slavonic], and a man speaking the Slavic tongue, and he learned from this man how to read and speak this language. After this, the holy brothers went to the Khazars, where they won a debate with Jews and Moslems by preaching the Gospel. On the way home, the brothers again visited Korsun and, taking up the relics of St Clement, they returned to Constantinople. St Constantine remained in the capital, but St Methodius was made igumen of the small Polychronion monastery near Mount Olympus, where he lived a life of asceticism as before.

Soon messengers came to the emperor from the Moravian prince Rostislav, who was under pressure from German bishops, with a request to send teachers to Moravia who would be able to preach in the Slavic tongue. The emperor summoned St Constantine and said to him, “You must go there, but it would be better if no one knows about this.”

St Constantine prepared for the new task with fasting and prayer. With the help of his brother St Methodius and the disciples Gorazd, Clement, Sava, Naum and Angelyar, he devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated the books which were necessary for the celebration of the divine services: the Gospel, Epistles, Psalter, and collected services, into the Slavic tongue. This occurred in the year 863.

After completing the translation, the holy brothers went to Moravia, where they were received with great honor, and they began to teach the services in the Slavic language. This aroused the malice of the German bishops, who celebrated divine services in the Moravian churches in Latin. They rose up against the holy brothers, convinced that divine services must be done in one of three languages: Hebrew, Greek or Latin.

St Constantine said, “You only recognize three languages in which God may be glorified. But David sang, ‘Praise the Lord, all nations, praise the Lord all peoples (Ps 116/117:1).’ And the Gospel of St

Matthew (28:18) says, ‘Go and teach all nations....’” The German bishops were humiliated, but they became bitter and complained to Rome.

The holy brothers were summoned to Rome for a decision on this matter. Taking with them the relics of St Clement, Ss Constantine and Methodius set off to Rome. Knowing that the holy brothers were bringing these relics with them, Pope Adrian met them along the way with his clergy. The holy brothers were greeted with honor, the Pope gave permission to have divine services in the Slavonic language, and he ordered the books translated by the brothers to be placed in the Latin churches, and to serve the Liturgy in the Slavonic language.

At Rome St Constantine fell ill, and the Lord revealed to him his approaching death. He was tonsured into the monastic schema with the name of Cyril. On February 14, 869, fifty days after receiving the schema, St Cyril died at the age of forty-two.

St Cyril commanded his brother St Methodius to continue with their task of enlightening the Slavic peoples with the light of the true Faith. St Methodius entreated the Pope to send the body of his brother for burial in their native land, but the Pope ordered the relics of St Cyril to be placed in the church of St Clement, where miracles began to occur from them.

