

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 6.2

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

June 14, 2015

#### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., June 14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Justin and companions.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 1, pp. 88–83.  
Panachida: Agnes Uhrin – Daniel Oneschuck & Leonard Ogden.  
*Men's Club meets.*

Sun., Jun 21 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Translation of the Relics of the Great-martyr Theodore. Holy Martyr Kalliope.

*Fathers' Day*

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 2, pp. 84–86/  
Panachida: Deceased Fathers of our parish and our parishioners.  
*Parish Board meets.*

**Confessions:** Before Divine Liturgy

#### FASTING AND FEASTING

**Apostles' Fast** began June 8 and goes until the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul on July 12.

The traditional fasting regulations state that red meat, poultry, and dairy products are not allowed during the entire fasting period on all weekdays, Monday through Friday. Also, Fish, wine, and oil are allowed on all days except on Wednesdays and Fridays. The diocesan rules merely require the usual Wednesday/Friday fast.

All are encouraged to do more than the minimum.

**Upcoming Feasts:** The next feasts in the Church Calendar are the *Birth of St. John the Baptist* (June 24/July 7) and the *Holy Apostles Peter and Paul* (June 29/12).

#### PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Living:* Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Tim & Christina Bracey. Bob Chalk. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. 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.

*Assisted Living Homes:* Julie Kovacs. Julie Roberts. Kathryn Stocoski.

*Altar Vigils:* Martin & Anna Hodanich by Marge Skotlewski & Madelyn Hodanich.

## PARISH STUFF

**Men's Club** will hold its regular monthly meeting today, Sunday, June 14.

**Parish Board** will hold its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, June 21.

**New Photocopier** - the old photocopier has been on the fritz for some time. The Board decided that a new copier would be more cost effective than trying to fix the old one. The copier is available for use by and for the parish.

- Those who wish to use the copier for the Board meetings, for the Men's Club, Altar Society or the Church School should talk to Nick Polanichka who can show you how to use it.
- Those who wish to take a gander at the new copier can just drop by the Board Office and check it out.
- The cost of the copier was about \$900. Anyone who wishes to donate to help offset the cost of the copier should see Nick Polanichka.

### Grounds Maintenance & Improvements:

- **Bushes in front of hall:** Many of you already noticed that the broken and dying bushes in the front of the hall were removed a week ago. We have received the offer of some volunteer work by a non-parishioner who did that removal. Plans at this time call for cleaning up that area and laying down plastic and gravel to finish it off.
- **Other trimming and grounds work:** We are also planning to do some other sprucing up, most of it also volunteer. There are a number of dead and dying bushes around the grounds that need to be removed, and a lot of others need trimming. Larry Czibik & Denise Sovitch do as much as they can (*thanks!*), but they have their hands full just with basic lawn care and some flower planting. We will get done what we can as long as we have the help, so you may want to look around once in a while to see what changes have been made.
- **Fence repair:** You may also have noticed that the section of fence on Vine St that was damaged this past winter has been removed. The contractor has taken it back to his fabrication shop to straighten and repair it. This work, about \$1500, is being covered by the car owner's insurance.
- **Other stuff:** If you see other work that you think

needs to be done around the property, please speak with Jane Togher, Fr. Nik or one of the Board members.

## 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.

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

June 7, 2015

529.00	General Collection
182.00	1st Sunday
77.00	7 Day Light
20.00	Holy Day
92.00	Church Dues
15.00	Taper Candles
625.00	Church Repairs Donations
<b>1,540.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

*Thanks & God Bless!* We have received to date \$950 in donations toward our recent expenses for church repairs. Your concern for your parish is certainly blessed!

#### Recent major expenditures include:

- \$1900 Church interior repairs & paint.
- \$ 900 New Photocopier machine

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**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!!!

**From the Desk of Fr. Jim Dutko, about Bishop Gregory, dated 6/8/2015:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I am pleased to tell you that His Grace, Bishop Gregory of our diocese has a wonderful commentary on this week's edition of the Orthodox Christian Network, a digital resource accessed by millions of people around the world.

In this interview, Bishop Gregory speaks of the role of a bishop as the Father in Christ of his people. He likewise talks at length about the great gift Camp Nazareth is in the life of our young people and the impact these experiences will have for them as future as leaders in our parishes and diocese. Take a half hour of your time and enjoy this particular program.

Click below on the link for "Its About Time." This will link you to the audio program.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Jim*

**Subject: Bishop Gregory**

What can a bishop teach us about fatherhood? We've invited His Grace Bishop Gregory, Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of America and Titular Bishop of Nyssa, to speak with Fr. Chris about the responsibilities and roles of fatherhood every bishop understands: to protect the faith and the faithful with love, attention, and discernment.

"It's About Time", <http://myocn.net/its-about-time/>

SAINTED CYRIL, ARCHBISHOP OF  
ALEXANDRIA,

June 9/22

*From the Menologion*

St Cyril, a distinguished champion of Orthodoxy and a great teacher of the Church, came from an illustrious and pious Christian family. He studied the secular sciences, among which number also was philosophy, but most of all he strove to acquire knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and the truths of the Christian faith. In his youth Saint Cyril entered the Skete-monastery of Saint Makarios in the Nitria hills, where he stayed for six years. The Patriarch of Alexandria Theophilos (385-412) ordained him to the dignity of deacon, numbered him among the clergy

and, seeing his giftedness, entrusted him to preach.

Upon the death of Patriarch Theophilos, Saint Cyril was unanimously chosen to the patriarchal throne of the Alexandrian Church. He headed the struggle against the spread in Alexandria of the Novatian heresy, which taught that a Christian, having fallen away from the Church during time of persecution, is not able to be received back by it again.

Saint Cyril, seeing the futility of admonishing the heretics, sought their expulsion from Alexandria. The Jews appeared a greater danger for the Church, repeatedly making riots, accompanied by the brutal killing of Christians. The saint long contended with them. And to end with the remaining paganism, the saint cast out devils from an ancient pagan temple and built on the place a church. Into it were transferred the relics of the holy Unmercenaries Cyrus and John. Still more difficult a struggle awaited the saint with the emergence of the Nestorian heresy.

Nestorius, a presbyter of the Antioch Church, was chosen in 428 to the Constantinople cathedra and therein got the chance to widely spread about his heretical teaching, directed against the dogma about the union of two natures in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nestorius called the Mother of God not the *Theotokos* or *Birth-giver of God*, but rather *Christotokos* or *Birth-giver of Christ*, implying that she gave birth not to God, but only to the man Christ. The holy Patriarch Cyril repeatedly wrote to Nestorius and pointed out his error, but Nestorius continued to persevere in it. Then the saint sent out epistles against Nestorianism to the clergy of the Constantinople Church and to the holy noble born emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) – two treatises with a denunciation of the heresy. Saint Cyril wrote also to other Churches – to Pope Celestine and to the other Patriarchs, and even to monks of several monasteries, warning about the emergence of a dangerous heresy.

Nestorius started an open persecution against the Orthodox. In his presence one of his partisans, bishop Dorotheos, pronounced from the church cathedra an anathema for anyone who would call the Most Holy Virgin Mary the *Theotokos*.

Nestorius hated Saint Cyril and brought out against him every kind of slander and fabrication, calling him an heretic. The saint with all his powers continued to

defend Orthodoxy. The situation became so aggravated, that it became necessary to convene an Ecumenical Council, which opened in the year 431 in the city of Ephesus. At the Council arrived 200 bishops from all the Christian Churches. Nestorius, awaiting the arrival of the bishop of Antioch John and other Syrian bishops, did not agree to the opening of the Council. But the fathers of the Council began the sessions. The Alexandrian Patriarch Saint Cyril presided. Having examined the teaching of Nestorius, the Council condemned him as an heretic. Nestorius did not submit to the Council, and the arriving bishop John opened a "robber council", which decreed Saint Cyril an heretic. The unrest increased. By order of the emperor, Patriarch Cyril of Alexandria and Archbishop Memnon of Ephesus were locked in prison. And in this measure, Nestorius also was deposed.

Soon Saints Cyril and Memnon were freed, and the sessions of the Council continued. Nestorius, not submitting himself to the determinations of the Council, was deprived of priestly rank and by order of the emperor sent to the faraway place Sasim in the Libyan wilderness, where he died in grievous torments: his tongue, having blasphemed the Mother of God, was overtaken by punishment – in it there developed worms. Even Bishop John of Antioch and the remaining Syrian bishops signed the decretals of the Ephesus Council.

Saint Cyril guided the Alexandrian Church for 32 years: towards the end of his abundant activity the flock was cleansed of heretics. Gently and cautiously Saint Cyril approached towards anyone, who by their own simpleness and lack of knowledge fell into false wisdom. To a certain elder, an ascetic of profound life, – who incorrectly considered the Old Testament Righteous High Priest Melchisedek to be the Son of God, – Saint Cyril turned with a request to pray to the Lord so that He should reveal, correctly how to consider that righteous one. After three days the elder came to Saint Cyril and said, that the Lord revealed to him, that Melchisedek was high-priest and a mere man.

Saint Cyril learned to overcome his prejudice against the memory of the great saint and bishop John Chrysostom. The Patriarch of Alexandria Theophilos, by birth an uncle of the saint, was an antagonist of St John, and presided in a council in judgement of him.

Saint Cyril from his youthful years found himself thus in a circle antagonistic to John Chrysostom and involuntarily acquired prejudice against him. The Monk Isidoros Pelusiotes repeatedly wrote to Saint Cyril and urged him to include the name of the great father of the Church into the diptych-list of the saints, but Saint Cyril would not agree. But once in a dream he saw a wondrous temple, in which was present the Mother of God surrounded by an host of Angels and saints, in which number stood also Saint John Chrysostom. When Saint Cyril wanted to approach the Most Holy Lady and offer to Her veneration, Saint John Chrysostom would not let him. The Mother of God asked Saint John to forgive Saint Cyril, for having sinned against him through ignorance. Seeing that Saint John hesitated, the Mother of God said: "Forgive him for Me, since he has laboured much for My honour, and has glorified Me among the people, calling Me the Mother of God, the Theotokos." Saint John answered: "By Your intercession, Lady, I do forgive him", – and then with love he hugged and embraced Saint Cyril.

Saint Cyril repented himself that he had maintained anger against the great saint of God. Having convened all the Egyptian bishops, he made a solemn festal celebration in honour of Sainted John Chrysostom.

Saint Cyril died in the year 444, leaving behind many works. In particular ought to be mentioned: his Scripture Commentaries: *On the Gospel of Luke, On the Gospel of John, On the Epistles of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians and to the Hebrews*; also an *Apologia in Defence of Christianity against the Emperor Julian the Apostate* (361-363). Of vast significance are: Five Books against Nestorius; a work about the Most Holy Trinity under the title *Thesaurus*, written against Arius and Eunomios; also two dogmatic compositions *On the Holy Trinity*, – distinguished by a precise exposition of the Orthodox teaching about the Procession of the Holy Spirit. Saint Cyril wrote a composition, *Against Anthropomorphism*, for several Egyptians, who through ignorance depicted God in human form. Amidst a number of works by Saint Cyril are also the *Discussions*, among which is the moving and edifying "Discourse on the Exodus of the Soul", inserted in the Slavonic "Following Psalter".