

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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3RD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

June 21, 2015

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Jun 21 3rd Sunday after Pentecost.
Translation of the Relics of
the Great-martyr Theodore
Stratelates. 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.

Sun., June 28 4th Sunday after Pentecost.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 3,
Panachida: Margaret & Michael

Malinak by Susan Danchak.

*1:00–ish Altar Servers leave for their
retreat*

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: M e m o r y o f N a r c y Skotlewski by Marge Skotlewski.

Eternal Light: Memory of Edward Bonk, Sr by Bonk family.

PARISH STUFF

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

Thanks and God Bless! The **Altar Society** has donated \$100 to the parish for Fathers' Day, in memory of the parish's fathers.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
June 14, 2015

\$ 441.00	General Collection
\$ 6.00	1st Sunday
\$ 72.00	7 Day Light
\$ 2.00	Holy Days
\$ 274.00	Church Dues
\$ 12.00	Taper Candles
\$ 807.00	Total Collection

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

Grounds Maintenance & Improvements:
(reprinted from last week. Stuff that has been done or is being planned for this

summer):

- **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:

Two boxes of food items were delivered Wednesday to the Bread Basket of Northeastern PA. They are thankful for our support as the Bread Basket continues to provide food to those in our community who are financially unable to provide three meals each day for their children.

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

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!!!

International Dinner Club at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 310 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. on Thursday July 9, 2015 at the Church Center. The theme this month is "God Bless America" and Chef Robert Olecki is preparing a real treat. To start we have a Watermelon Gazpacho (Fresh summer melon, cucumber, sea salt lime juice and fresh summer vegetables with the Entree of Blueberry Bar-B-Que Ribs, slow roasted with a topping of fresh blueberry Bar-B-Que Sauce and Patriotic Potato Salad with purple potatoes, new red potatoes and baby white potatoes, celery, scallion and cider mustard vinaigrette. Dessert will be a Berry Stack, summer berries stacked with fresh cake and layered with sweet cream. Coffee, Tea, Water or Soda are included and a Cash Bar is available. This wonderful meal is only \$20.00 per person so call 570-343-5151 and make your reservation by July 6!!!

Note: Last Sunday was the celebration of "Regional" Saints, those who are remembered in a special way in each of the local Orthodox jurisdictions. We therefore remembered the Saints of Carpatho-Rus at the Liturgy. However, I forgot to say anything about them in the bulletin until it was too late, so here is a brief survey of the Saints we remembered last week:

THE SAINTS WHO SHONE FORTH FROM AND/OR LABORED IN CARPATHO-RUS

Cyril (+869) and Methodius (+885) and their Disciples Gorazd, Clement, Naum, Sava, and Angelar

These two brothers from the Byzantine city of Thessalonica had been involved with both religious and civic affairs. When King Rastislav of Greater Moravia asked for Slavic-speaking clergy to work among his subjects, St. Photios, patriarch of Constantinople, sent Cyril and Methodius. They, along with their disciples, arrived in the year 863. Their work laid the foundations for Slavic Christianity, leaving the Slavonic language and two alphabets (Glagolitic and Cyrillic) as their legacy.

According to legend, the holy brothers (or their disciples) helped establish the town of Mukačevo as a diocese. While the historical evidence for this is minimal, the fact remains that the Carpatho-Rusyns have always looked at the ministry of Cyril and Methodius as the start of their Christian heritage.

After the deaths of Cyril and Methodius, when the Slavonic-speaking clergy were no longer welcome in Greater Moravia, the disciples moved to the south, and established Ohrid (in

present-day Macedonia) as a center of Slavic learning and literature. This continuation of the ministry of Cyril and Methodius made it possible, in turn, for Byzantine missionaries to be dispatched to Kiev in 988, at the request of Saint Vladimir.

Rastislav, King of Greater Moravia (+870)

As ruler of Greater Moravia, he sent to Constantinople for missionaries to preach in the Slavic tongue. He supported the work of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Moses Uhrin (“the Hungarian”) (+1043) and his brothers Ephrem of Novy Torzhok (+1053) and George (+1015)

All three brothers were called “Hungarian” since they came to Rus’ from lands ruled by the Hungarians, but given that they were Eastern Christian Slavs, they are accounted as Rusyns. The three brothers entered into the service of the holy prince of Rostov, Boris, son of Saint Vladimir. George died first, being killed along with Boris. Ephrem fled and went on to lead a monastic life. He lived in the town of Novy Torzhok, where he founded a monastery dedicated to Saints Boris and Gleb. Moses, on the other hand, fled to Kiev. After Kiev was captured by the Poles, he was taken as a prisoner to

Poland. He was “ransomed” by a wealthy widow who wanted Moses to become her husband. Moses, however, had already set his mind on living a monastic life, and thus refused all her advances. For this, she had him tortured on numerous occasions. His freedom came when the widow was killed during a time of civil unrest. He joined the brotherhood of the Kiev Caves Monastery, where he labored for a decade. A portion of Saint Moses’ relics are enshrined at the monastery of Saint Nicholas (“Ěerneèa Hora”) in Mukaèevo.

Stephen, King of Hungary (+1038)

Most of the lands of Carpatho-Rus were part of his kingdom in the 10th century. His status as a saint was recognized by the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the year 2000.

Joseph (Stojka) of Maramoroš (+1711)

After the Diocese of Mukaèevo accepted Union with Rome in 1646, the region of Maramoroš (today split today between Ukraine and Romania) became a center for the Orthodox hierarchy. Joseph was one of the last Orthodox Bishops in Carpatho-Rus until the 20th century, and is known as “the Confessor” for his defense of the Orthodox faith.

Alexis (Toth) of Wilkes-Barre (+1909)

*Note: St. Alexis' relics rest at **St Tikhon Monastery**, nearby. All are encouraged to pay a trip and venerate his relics.*

Alexis, a Greek Catholic priest from the Eparchy of Prešov, came to the United States to minister to the large numbers of Rusyn Greek Catholic immigrants. After being shamefully treated by the local Roman Catholic bishop, in 1891, he and his parish in Minneapolis were received into the Orthodox Church. He spearheaded a "Return to Orthodoxy" movement and established many parishes. St. Alexis is credited with bringing as many as 20,000 people back to the Orthodox Church, and the movement he began resulted in about 250,000 people joining the Orthodox Church here in America between 1891 and 1910.

Although St. Alexis was sent to preach Orthodoxy all over America, his base parish was in Wilkes-Barre. At the end of 1908, St Alexis' health began to decline due to a complication of illnesses. He went to the seashore in southern New Jersey in an attempt to regain his health, but soon returned to Wilkes-Barre, where he was confined to bed for two months. The righteous one reposed on Friday, May 7, 1909 (April 24 on the Old Calendar), the feast of Ss Sava and Alexius the Hermit of the Kiev Caves. St Alexis' love and

concern for his spiritual children did not cease with his death. Many people have had their prayers answered by God through the intercession of St. Alexis.

St Alexis was a true man of God who guided many Carpatho-Russian and Galician immigrants through the dark confusion of religious challenges in the New World and back to the unity of the Orthodox Church through his grace-filled words and by his holy example. In his last will and testament St Alexis commended his soul to God's mercy, asking forgiveness from everyone and forgiving everybody. His holy relics now rest at **St Tikhon Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania** where the faithful may come to venerate them and to entreat St Alexis' intercessions on their behalf.

Maximus (Sandovič) of Gorlice (+1914)

As a young priest, Maxim labored for Orthodoxy among the Lemko-Rusyns in what is today Poland. His missionary work was considered treasonous by the Austrian government, and he was arrested and imprisoned for two years. After being released, he was again arrested, along with his wife and family. Maxim, at the age of 28, was executed by firing squad.