

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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July 19, 2015

7TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., July 19 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Monk Sisoos the Great.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 6, pp. 96–98.
Parish Board's regular monthly meeting scheduled.

Sun., July 26 8th Sunday after Pentecost. *Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.*
Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special sheets.

Confessions: Before Divine Liturgy

FASTING AND FEASTING

Upcoming Feasts:

Holy Prophet Elias the Tishbite – Sunday, August 2 (July 20). It has become customary to bless cars on this day, so we will bless cars after the Divine Liturgy. If you want your car blessed, please try to park as close to the church parking lot as possible.

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. Eric Reese. 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.

Eternal Light: Memory of Floyd Swingle, Jr by Lovie Swingle.

Congratulations & God Bless! Oliver Demetrios Bracey was born on Tuesday, July 7. Many years! To Oliver Demetrios, his parents Timothy & Christina Bracey, and brother Cole!

PARISH STUFF

Parish Board meets today.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Food Delivery to the BreadBasket of NEPA: On July 1st, 8 boxes of food items were delivered to the Bread Basket of Northeastern PA. They are very thankful for our continued support.

BREADBASKET OF NEPA THANKS YOU ALL! The folks at the BreadBasket of Nepa sent our parish a *Thank You!* Card in appreciation of our ongoing donations to this very worthy cause. I won't spoil it for you – you

can read the card which is available in the hall. Let us keep up the good work! "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, *for I was hungry and you gave food...*" (Matthew 25:34-35).

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

July 5, 2015

\$ 382.00	General Collection
\$ 62.00	1st Sunday
\$ 69.00	7 Day Light
\$ 17.00	Holy Days
\$ 9.00	Tapered Candles
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 546.00	Total Collection

July 12, 2015

\$ 356.00	General Collection
\$ 2.00	1st Sunday
\$ 66.00	7 Day Light
\$ 46.00	Holy Days
\$ 184.00	Church Dues
\$ 12.00	Taper Candles
\$ 666.00	Total Collection

**FROM THE DIOCESE
& OTHER STUFF**

19th Annual Flea Market & Ziti Dinner at St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205. North Main St., Pittston, Pa. will be holding its 19th Annual Flea Market & Ziti Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 1st & Sunday Aug. 2nd, 2015 at the Church Hall. We will also be having a Bake Sale on Saturday and Homemade Ethnic Foods like Piggies, Pirohi and Haluski on both days. Flea Market Hours are: Sat. 9am-4pm & Sunday 9am-3pm. Ziti Dinner is on Sat. 12-4pm and Sun. 10-3pm. \$10.00 for Adults and \$6.00 for Children. Take outs are also available.

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). Their 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!!!

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2015-2016 KULIS
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

*[Note: the Kulis Foundation Scholarships have been advertised in the bulletin, on the ACROD website and the GOA website. I include this announcement here to encourage anyone who may be eligible to apply for these scholarships. **There are still two scholarships available for this coming academic year.** Please see the end of the announcement for information.*

I deleted all the names except those of local interest. If you wish a a copy of the entire list, please see me.]

As you know, The John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation ("Kulis Foundation") began a number of new scholarship programs this year, in addition to the pre-existing Undergraduate/Graduate Scholarship Program. These new programs include the Students in the Sciences Scholarship, the Karasia Kulis Advanced Degrees in Health Sciences Scholarship and the Dr. John C. Kulis Medical School Scholarship. These programs were developed to support students of the Eastern Orthodox and Hellenic communities who have demonstrated a commitment to completing their education, involvement in their church and/or community, and have certain financial needs that make it difficult to pay for the cost of attending college.

We were pleased to receive a total of eight-five (85) applications for these four (4) scholarship programs. There were an overwhelmingly large amount of strong applications, making selecting recipients very difficult. In total, forty (40) scholarships were awarded for a total of \$255,000 in scholarship funds.

Please join us in congratulating the following students on their Graduate Student scholarship award:

Jessica Hatala (of Dickson City, PA, attending University of Pittsburgh)

Michael Shimko (of Taylor, PA, attending University of Scranton)

Please join us in congratulating the following students on their Undergraduate Student scholarship award:

Jordan Polanichka (of Hermitage, PA, attending California University of Pennsylvania)

Taylor Polanichka (of Hermitage, PA, attending Indiana University)

There are also two (2) remaining scholarship programs available for application. Please visit our

website, kulisfoundation.org, to view the eligibility requirements for our 2015-2016 St. Philip the Deacon Seminarian Scholarship. Applications, which are due August 1, 2015, are available to download on our website. The Kulis Foundation will also be awarding scholarships in partnership with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople through its Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Scholarship Program. Applications, which are due July 15, 2015, may be requested from Rev. Dn. Nephon Tsimalis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. In total, these two (2) scholarship programs have approximately \$195,000 in scholarship funds available for awards.

The Kulis Foundation also looks forward to offering these programs next year. We need your help to make sure that the availability of these opportunities reaches all eligible students. If you would like to be notified of the Foundation's scholarship opportunities, deadlines, and details - please send an email with your contact information to info@kulisfoundation.org.

Very truly yours,

John A. Kirk, President & Steven M. Laduzinsky,
Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer

PRAY FOR AMERICA.

by Fr Jonathan Tobias

Orthodox Christians were always called to pray for their government, and to obey its expectations (including taxes). The earliest Christians were told by St Paul to pray for the Roman Caesar and the Empire -- despite the fact that they were persecuted and oppressed by this anti-Christian government. Byzantine Christians, who lived in the most Christian government of all time, had to pay exorbitant taxes (in America, we pay relatively much less, and are regulated much less).

Orthodox Christians have lived under many types of government. The Roman Empire was pagan and pluralistic: that is, there were many gods and religions (just like now: the secular marketplace is full of little gods). Orthodox Christianity got in trouble because it said there was only One God and One Word and One Spirit. The Roman Caesar was a tyrant and often a monstrous persecutor of Christians.

The Byzantine Empire was Christian and beautiful -- but you would have been surprised by how regulated and taxed daily life was. Orthodoxy was everywhere. It was vastly "cosmopolitan." But its history was full of

war, usurpation and controversy.

Later, we Orthodox suffered under the persecution of the Muslim yoke under the Ottomans. We were oppressed by the Tartars in Russia. We endured occupation by waves of Polish, Hungarian, Swedish and other western imperial forces. And, most recently, our old country withered under the grip of Soviet communism.

In America, we Orthodox experienced something we have never dealt with before: democracy, political liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and the ability to work and succeed. There was (and remains) plenty to eat and plenty to enjoy.

America is also "pluralistic." There are many other religions and many other cultures who enjoy the same rights that we do. There are many opinions and governmental positions with which we agree or disagree.

We are even able to be critical of our government and the positions of other groups. But while we might disagree, we must be civil. That is the expectation of a citizen, especially in a democracy. Civility is also a commandment. It is a sin to show disrespect. It is a mortal sin to foment rebellion.

We have to always bear in mind that our elected leaders have to govern and be responsible for everyone -- not just people like us, or people we like. Most politicians running for office are able to succeed in attracting votes and manipulating feelings: much fewer politicians are actually good leaders ... few indeed are interested in the hard day-to-day thankless unseen labor of governing. The roads have to be patched. Bridges have to be repaired. The country has to be protected. The weak have to be defended and cared for. The beautiful natural resources have to be watched with responsible stewardship. Loud (and often irresponsible) demands from all side -- left and right -- have to be listened to and dealt with respectfully every day. Money floods in like tidal waves over seats of government to purchase political advantage -- and this same money is also used to manipulate public opinion, which turns out to be easily swayed.

"Put not your trust in mortal princes, but put your trust in God alone." The Psalms tell us this at least three times, and the same warning is sprinkled through all of Scripture and the Holy Fathers. So we should not get our hopes up by anyone in politics, whether

Republican or Democrat, left or right, conservative or liberal. We should be willing and able to criticize in careful thought and discussion. We should be willing to leave the discussion when emotions heat up: it's called taking a "time-out," and frankly, many adults in the campaign season need to do exactly that.

We Orthodox Christians have been given an unprecedented gift in Orthodox history. We have been given liberty and a beautiful, rich country.

I have to think that we are being watched by Orthodox Christians from earlier times and other lands -- beautiful people who suffered under horrible Emperors like Caligula and Diocletian; or who had their icons burned by the iconoclast Emperor Leo the Isaurian; or who became second-class citizens under the Ottoman Pasha, and their sons were taken at birth to become Seljuk Janissaries; or who had to send their children to fight in one of Europe's barbaric and myriad wars; or who had to secretly attend Liturgy, while knowing that the KGB was listing their name for possible questioning at Lubyanka in Dzerzhinsky Square.

They, undoubtedly, would listen to me and you complain about any number of things in America: the Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, the economy, etc.

Then they would smile, shake their heads, and say: "What are you complaining about? You don't look like you're starving. Is anyone in your family in jail? And you can complain about your leaders without fear? We went through much worse.

"Why don't you give thanks, and pray instead of complaining? You should be happy."

Indeed. We should pray, and give thanks. God bless America!

GREATMARTYR MARINA (*ALSO KNOWN AS MARGARET*) OF ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

Commemorated on July 17/July 30

The Holy Great Martyr Marina was born in Asia Minor, in the city of Antioch of Pisidia (southern Asia Minor), into the family of a pagan priest. In infancy she lost her mother, and her father gave her into the care of a nursemaid, who raised Marina in the Orthodox Faith. Upon learning that his daughter had become a Christian, the father angrily disowned her. During the

time of the persecution against Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284-305), when she was fifteen years old, St Marina was arrested and locked up in prison. With firm trust in the will of God and His help, the young prisoner prepared for her impending fate.

The governor Olymbrios, charmed with the beautiful girl, tried to persuade her to renounce the Christian Faith and become his wife. But the saint, unswayed, refused his offers. The vexed governor gave the holy martyr over to torture. Having beaten her fiercely, they fastened the saint with nails to a board and tore at her body with tridents. The governor himself, unable to bear the horror of these tortures, hid his face in his hands. But the holy martyr remained unyielding. Thrown for the night into prison, she was granted heavenly aid and healed of her wounds. They stripped her and tied her to a tree, then burned the martyr with fire. Barely alive, the martyr prayed: "Lord, You have granted me to go through fire for Your Name, grant me also to go through the water of holy Baptism."

Hearing the word "water", the governor gave orders to drown the saint in a large cauldron. The martyr besought the Lord that this manner of execution should become for her holy Baptism. When they plunged her into the water, there suddenly shone a light, and a snow-white dove came down from Heaven, bearing in its beak a golden crown. The fetters put upon St Marina came apart by themselves. The martyr stood up in the fount of Baptism glorifying the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. St Marina emerged from the fount completely healed, without any trace of burns. Amazed at this miracle, the people glorified the True God, and many came to believe. This brought the governor into a rage, and he gave orders to kill anyone who might confess the Name of Christ. 15,000 Christians perished there, and the holy Martyr Marina was beheaded. The sufferings of the Great Martyr Marina were described by an eyewitness of the event, named Theotimos.

Up until the taking of Constantinople by Western crusaders in the year 1204, the relics of the Great Martyr Marina were in the Panteponteia monastery. According to other sources, they were located in Antioch until the year 908 and from there transferred to Italy. Now they are in Athens, in a church dedicated to the holy Virgin Martyr. Her venerable hand was transferred to Mount Athos, to the Batopedi monastery.