

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 2, 2015

9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

HOLY PROPHET ELIAS THE TISHBITE

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Aug. 2 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. *Holy Prophet Elias the Tishbite.*

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special sheets.  
Blessing of Cars after Liturgy

Noon Holy Mysteries of Initiation – Rylee  
Mary Kieffer

Sun., Aug. 9 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
*Men's Club regular monthly meeting*

**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:*

*Deceased:* Connie Lou Slater.

*Living:* Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria Bracey. Tim, Christina, Cole & Oliver Bracey. Bob Chalk. Susan Danchak. Ricky,

Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Tammy Hall. Heather Harris. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Dawn, Warren, Colten, Noah & Rylee Mary 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. 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:* Donald Naglak by Delores Naglak.

*Congratulations & God Bless:* to **Rylee Mary Kieffer**, who today receives the Holy Mysteries of Initiation. Many years to Rylee Mary, her parents Warren & Dawn Kieffer, brothers Colten and Noah, and sponsors Alyssa Zekoski and Julie Huniyack!

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Breadbasket of NEPA:** The collection bins are in the hall and starting to fill up again! Please help support this ongoing charity by bringing in canned goods and dry goods to donate to those who need our help!

## PARISH STUFF

**Social Hour Today:** We will be having the usual Social Hour in the hall today. However, because of the Baptism today, we ask that the Social Hour end by 12:00 noon, so that it can be set up for the reception.

**Hall Rentals:** The Parish Board recently discussed the use of the hall by parishioners and wants to clarify how the hall can be used.

1. *Who can use the hall:* All parishioners in good standing are welcome to use the hall for parties, receptions, etc. This is limited to use for events that are held *by* our parishioners or *for* our parishioners. E.g., a funeral lunch for a parishioner; a birthday party for a parishioner. This does not include a parishioner booking the hall for someone else to hold a party for someone else. If you are not sure, please call and ask.

2. *Cost of using the hall:* Parishioners are not charged a fee for the use of the hall. However, donations are welcome.

3. *Clean up required:* The person who books the hall is responsible for making sure that the hall is cleaned up after the event. Because we have as yet not hired a maintenance person, we will have to hire a cleaning company to clean the hall if it is not properly cleaned. The person who booked the hall will be charged **\$75** to cover the cost of cleaning if we need to have it done.

4. *Contact person:* Jane Togher is currently the person to call to book the hall, to have the hall opened, and the person who will determine that the hall is properly cleaned. Jane can be reached at 570-842-3311, [jctogher@gmail.com](mailto:jctogher@gmail.com).

5. *Questions or concerns?* Call Jane or Fr. Nik.

**Men's Club** regular monthly meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, Aug. 9.

**Parish Board** meets Sunday, Aug. 16.

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

July 26, 2015

\$834.00	General Collection
20.00	1st Sunday
102.00	7 Day Light
35.00	Holy Days
13.00	Taper Candles
130.00	Maintenance & Repairs
21.00	Eternal Light
10.00	Vigil Lights
<b>\$1,165.00</b>	<b>Total</b>

**ST. MARY'S INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18503** will highlight the "Tastes of the Orient" on **August 6, 2015**. This time it will be the first week of the month so as not to coincide with our Slavic Festival on August 14, 15, 16<sup>th</sup>. The menu will start with an appetizer of Vegetable Egg Roll served with a sweet Chili Sauce and the Entrée will be Pad Khi Mao (Stir fried noodles with pork, garlic, sweet basil, coconut milk, carrots, green onion and fresh ginger) and a Mango and Green Tea Pudding for Dessert. Coffee, Tea, Water or Soda is included and a Cash Bar is available. You can make your reservation for 5:30 or 6:30pm and the price is \$20.00 per person. Please call 570-343-5151 by August 3, 2015.

**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!!!

**St. John the Baptist, Nesquehoning Annual Parish Picnic** Sunday, August 23, 2015, at the Nesquehoning Hose Company Pavilion. The day's schedule is as follows: His Grace Bishop Gregory will be visiting St. John the Baptist Parish to celebrate THE DIVINE LITURGY at 10:00 AM marking the 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding

*Anniversary of Father Robert and Pani Peggy Teklinski, as well as, Father Robert's 15th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood.*

PICNIC BEGINS AT THE PAVILION AT 1:00 PM.

Once again, our picnic will feature a pig roast by LORAH'S PIG ROASTERS CATERER from Walnutport, PA. The menu will consist of roast pork, roasted chicken, hot dogs, and all the trimmings. Parishioners are kindly asked to make desserts.

Tickets are \$15 each for adults and children are free. Picnic tickets will be on sale in the Church Hall each Sunday starting on June 14th and ending on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Call for more information: Rectory (570) 669-6623 Church Hall (570) 669-6036.

Come to the Annual Parish Picnic and enjoy good food, fellowship, games, raffles, and prizes. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Twenty-fourth Annual Ukrainian Folk Festival, Celebrating Ukraine's Independence Day.** Sunday, August 23, at 12:00 Noon. The Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA.) invites you to attend our festival. Enjoy an outdoor concert of Ukrainian Folk and Modern Dance, Music and Song, featuring: ISKRA Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Whippany, NJ; Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Jenkintown, PA; violinist Innesa Tymychko Dekajlo from Lviv, Ukraine; The Vox Ethnika Orchestra from New York; and the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus from Philadelphia, PA. A Ukrainian Social Dance (Zabava) to the tunes of The Vox Ethnika Dance Band will follow the stage show. Ukrainian ethnic foods, baked goods, standard picnic fare and cool refreshments will be plentiful. Visit vendors' grove and the kids' fun area. Information: 267-664-3857; website: [www.tryzub.org](http://www.tryzub.org).

**5th Annual 2015 Rummage Sale** *Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, Pa.* St. Cyril's Parish Hall – NEW LOCATION – for 2015 207 River Street, Olyphant. SEPTEMBER 18th 19th 20<sup>th</sup>. Time: 8:00 a.m-4:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Contact Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319 or Rev. Nestor Iwasiw 570-489-2271. <http://stcyrils.weconnect.com>. Free parking across the Street from St. Cyril's Church on River Street.

## MYRRHBEARER AND EQUAL OF THE APOSTLES MARY MAGDALENE

Commemorated on July 22/August 4

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

The Holy Myrrh-Bearer Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene. On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Capernaum and Tiberias, was the small city of Magdala, the remains of which have survived to our day. Now only the small village of Mejhdel stands on the site.

A woman whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account was born and grew up in Magdala. The Gospel tells us nothing of Mary's younger years, but Tradition informs us that Mary of Magdala was young and pretty, and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary (Luke. 8:2). From the moment of her healing Mary led a new life, and became a true disciple of the Savior.

The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of God. Together with the pious women Joanna, wife of Choza (steward of Herod), Susanna and others, she served Him from her own possessions (Luke 8:1-3) and undoubtedly shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks in common with the other women. The Evangelist Luke, evidently, has her in view together with the other women, stating that at the moment of the Procession of Christ onto Golgotha, when after the Scourging He took on Himself the heavy Cross, collapsing under its weight, the women followed after Him weeping and wailing, but He consoled them. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John.

The Evangelists also list among those standing at the Cross the mother of the Apostle James, and Salome, and other women followers of the Lord from Galilee, but all mention Mary Magdalene first. St John, in addition to the Mother of God, names only her and Mary Cleopas. This indicates how much she stood out from all the women who gathered around

the Lord.

She was faithful to Him not only in the days of His Glory, but also at the moment of His extreme humiliation and insult. As the Evangelist Matthew relates, she was present at the Burial of the Lord. Before her eyes Joseph and Nicodemus went out to the tomb with His lifeless Body. She watched as they covered over the entrance to the cave with a large stone, entombing the Source of Life.

Faithful to the Law in which she was raised, Mary together with the other women spent following day at rest, because it was the great day of the Sabbath, coinciding with the Feast of Passover. But all the rest of the peaceful day the women gathered spices to go to the Grave of the Lord at dawn on Sunday and anoint His Body according to the custom of the Jews.

It is necessary to mention that, having agreed to go on the first day of the week to the Tomb early in the morning, the holy women had no possibility of meeting with one another on Saturday. They went separately on Friday evening to their own homes. They went out only at dawn the following day to go to the Sepulchre, not all together, but each from her own house.

The Evangelist Matthew writes that the women came to the grave at dawn, or as the Evangelist Mark expresses, extremely early before the rising of the sun. The Evangelist John, elaborating upon these, says that Mary came to the grave so early that it was still dark. Obviously, she waited impatiently for the end of night, but it was not yet daybreak. She ran to the place where the Lord's Body lay.

Mary went to the tomb alone. Seeing the stone pushed away from the cave, she ran away in fear to tell the close Apostles of Christ, Peter and John. Hearing the strange message that the Lord was gone from the tomb, both Apostles ran to the tomb and, seeing the shroud and winding cloths, they were amazed. The Apostles went and said nothing to anyone, but Mary stood about the entrance to the tomb and wept. Here in this dark tomb so recently lay her lifeless Lord.

Wanting proof that the tomb really was empty, she went down to it and saw a strange sight. She saw two angels in white garments, one sitting at the head, the other at the foot, where the Body of Jesus had been placed. They asked her, "Woman, why weepest

thou?" She answered them with the words which she had said to the Apostles, "They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." At that moment, she turned around and saw the Risen Jesus standing near the grave, but she did not recognize Him.

He asked Mary, "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom dost thou seek?" She answered thinking that she was seeing the gardener, "Sir, if thou hast taken him, tell where thou hast put Him, and I will take Him away."

Then she recognized the Lord's voice. This was the voice she heard in those days and years, when she followed the Lord through all the cities and places where He preached. He spoke her name, and she gave a joyful shout, "Rabbi" (Teacher).

Respect and love, fondness and deep veneration, a feeling of thankfulness and recognition at His Splendor as great Teacher, all came together in this single outcry. She was able to say nothing more and she threw herself down at the feet of her Teacher to wash them with tears of joy. But the Lord said to her: "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and tell them: "I ascend to My Father, and your Father; to My God and to your God."

She came to herself and again ran to the Apostles, to do the will of Him sending her to preach. Again she ran into the house, where the Apostles still remained in dismay, and proclaimed to them the joyous message, "I have seen the Lord!" This was the first preaching in the world about the Resurrection.

The Apostles proclaimed the Glad Tidings to the world, but she proclaimed it to the Apostles themselves.

Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ, but it is impossible to doubt, that if in the terrifying minutes of Christ's Crucifixion she was at the foot of His Cross with His All-Pure Mother and St John, she must have stayed with them during the happier time after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Thus in the Acts of the Apostles St Luke writes that all the Apostles with one mind stayed in prayer and supplication, with certain women and Mary the Mother of Jesus and His brethren.

Holy Tradition testifies that when the Apostles departed from Jerusalem to preach to all the ends of the earth, then Mary Magdalene also went with them. A daring woman, whose heart was full of reminiscence of the Resurrection, she went beyond her native borders and went to preach in pagan Rome. Everywhere she proclaimed to people about Christ and His teaching. When many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: "I have seen the Lord!" With this message she went all over Italy.

Tradition relates that in Italy Mary Magdalene visited Emperor Tiberias (14-37 A.D.) and proclaimed to him Christ's Resurrection. According to Tradition, she brought him a red egg as a symbol of the Resurrection, a symbol of new life with the words: "Christ is Risen!" Then she told the emperor that in his Province of Judea the unjustly condemned Jesus the Galilean, a holy man, a miracleworker, powerful before God and all mankind, had been executed at the instigation of the Jewish High Priests, and the sentence confirmed by the procurator appointed by Tiberias, Pontius Pilate.

Mary repeated the words of the Apostles, that we are redeemed from the vanity of life not with perishable silver or gold, but rather by the precious Blood of Christ.

Thanks to Mary Magdalene the custom to give each other paschal eggs on the day of the Radiant Resurrection of Christ spread among Christians over all the world. In one ancient Greek manuscript, written on parchment, kept in the monastery library of St Athanasius near Thessalonica, is a prayer read on the day of Holy Pascha for the blessing of eggs and cheese. In it is indicated that the igumen in passing out the blessed eggs says to the brethren: "Thus have we received from the holy Fathers, who preserved this custom from the very time of the holy Apostles, therefore the holy Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene first showed believers the example of this joyful offering."

Mary Magdalene continued her preaching in Italy and in the city of Rome itself. Evidently, the Apostle Paul has her in mind in his Epistle to the Romans (16: 6), where together with other ascetics of evangelic preaching he mentions Mary (Mariam), who as he

expresses "has bestowed much labor on us." Evidently, she extensively served the Church in its means of subsistence and its difficulties, being exposed to dangers, and sharing with the Apostles the labors of preaching.

According to Church Tradition, she remained in Rome until the arrival of the Apostle Paul, and for two more years following his departure from Rome after the first court judgment upon him. From Rome, St Mary Magdalene, already bent with age, moved to Ephesus where the holy Apostle John unceasingly labored. There the saint finished her earthly life and was buried.

Her holy relics were transferred in the ninth century to Constantinople, and placed in the monastery Church of St Lazarus. In the era of the Crusader campaigns they were transferred to Italy and placed at Rome under the altar of the Lateran Cathedral. Part of the relics of Mary Magdalene are said to be in Provage, France near Marseilles, where over them at the foot of a steep mountain a splendid church is built in her honor.

The Orthodox Church honors the holy memory of St Mary Magdalene, the woman called by the Lord Himself from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.

Formerly immersed in sin and having received healing, she sincerely and irrevocably began a new life and never wavered from that path. Mary loved the Lord Who called her to a new life. She was faithful to Him not only when He was surrounded by enthusiastic crowds and winning recognition as a miracle-worker, but also when all the disciples deserted Him in fear and He, humiliated and crucified, hung in torment upon the Cross. This is why the Lord, knowing her faithfulness, appeared to her first, and esteemed her worthy to be first to proclaim His Resurrection.

## HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

Commemorated on July 20/August 2

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

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: "When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of

Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit. In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).