

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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August 30, 2015

13TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST & . POST-FESTIVE OF DORMITION.

September 6, 2015

14TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Aug. 30 13th Sunday after Pentecost. Post-festive of Dormition. Martyred Priest Myron.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Sun., Sep. 6 14th Sunday after Pentecost. Martyred Bishop Eutyches.

9:30 AM Deacon's Service with Deacon Philip Harendza – Tone 5, pp 93–95.

Altar Society meets.

Wed., Sep. 9 Holy Monk Pimen.

7:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Sep. 10 Holy Monk Moses the Ethiopian.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Sep. 11 *Beheading of St. John the Baptist.*

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – pp 172–173.

Panachida: Connie Lou Slater – 40 day memorial.

10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale.*

Strict Fast Today

Sun., Sep. 13 15th Sunday after Pentecost. Deposition of the Venerable Belt of Holy Mary Theotokos

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 6, pp 96–98.

Panachida: Julia Worobey – 40 day memorial.

Parish Board meets.

Confessions: Before Divine Liturgy

FASTS . . .

Strict Fast is observed on the feast of the *BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST*. Strict Fast means no meat, dairy, wine or oil. Also, in commemoration of the way that St. John was martyred, pious Orthodox will not eat from a plate but only from a bowl, will not use knives to each with, and will not eat foods that are round or come as a 'head' (cabbage, lettuce, etc.).

. . . & FEASTS

FEAST OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST. Friday, September 11. See the explanation below. Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Julia Worobey. 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. Helene Flaherty. Tammy Hall. Heather Harris. Robert & Eddie Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Dawn, Anna Mae Kuklis. John Lange. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Theresa Niester. Margie Pecuch. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Faye Snell. Marion Sosnowski. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel.

At Home: Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. George & Anna Senich.

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

Eternal Light: Stephen and Susan Baronych from the Bonk family. [*Missed this listing from last week. My apologies.*]

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

Fr. Nik will be away from Sunday, August 30 until Tuesday, September 8 in order to teach a doctoral course at the Antiochian Orthodox House of Studies in Ligonier, PA.

- Deacon Philip Harendza will again be celebrating the *Deacon's Communion Service*. He tells me he really enjoyed being here to substitute for me, so thank you for making him welcome.
- In case of emergency, please call Fr. Mark Leasure at 570-562-1170. You may also call me on my cell phone. However, I will caution you all that Cell Phone coverage at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier is only a hair better than that at Camp Nazareth, where it is virtually non-

existent. So, while I will try to check my phone regularly, it may be a while before I am able to get the message and get back to you.

Altar Society meets Sunday, September 6.

Parish Board regular monthly meeting is moved to Sunday, September 13, because of the Baptism on September 20.

Annual Meeting: Advance Notice. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 25, after the Divine Liturgy. More info to come.

Church School: The First Day of Church School is tentatively set for Sunday, September 13. A calendar is being sent out to the parents of our parish children.

Adult Enrichment: will be starting up again this fall. It will be held about one Sunday a month, during Social Hour. Right now I am thinking about using the downstairs for the class, so that those who wish to socialize in the hall can do so without interference or feeling they have to leave. Here are the currently planned dates for the fall: September 27. October 4. November 22. November 29. Everyone is welcome to participate. As in the past, I will try to make each session a stand-alone, so that no one feels they won't be able to catch up if they miss a session.

PARISH FUND RAISERS

1ST PIROHI SALE!!! Fri., Sept. 11. *Still just \$7.00/doz.* We'll be working Wed, Sept. 9 starting around 7 AM and Thu., Sept. 10 starting around 8 AM.

Chicken Dinner Saturday, September 19. 12 Noon to 4 PM or until sold out.

- \$10/dinner, includes ½ chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, dessert.
- *Eat In, or Take Out!*
- Pre-orders are welcome! Call 570-344-1522 and leave a message. We will get back to you!
- *Altar Society members* asked to donate desserts.
- *Help!* If you would like to donate your time in helping with the dinner, please speak with Carol Pugh or Bill Thomas.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

August 23, 2015

\$429.00	General Collection
5.00	1st Sunday
84.00	7 Day Light
28.00	Holy Days
92.00	Church Dues
15.00	Taper Candles
13.00	Maintenance & Repairs
450.00	Memory of Julia Worobey
\$1,116.00	Total

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Ethnic Dinner *St. Mary's Orthodox Church, 522 Main St., Dickson City, PA 18519.* THURSDAY, SEPT. 10. 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Featuring Holubki, Kielbasi, Halushki, Vegetable, Roll and Dessert. \$12/dinner.

- *Take out only!*
- Advance Orders Requested
- Group orders welcome! Call by Sept. 8!
- 570-489-3301 or 570-489-4283

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 20th. 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.

Ukrainian Folk Group to Perform in Scranton. St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish of Scranton is proud to announce the appearance of the "Korinya Ukrainian Folk Band" which will be joined by several members of the "Kazka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble" on Sunday, September 20, 2015 beginning at 3:00pm at *St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue*. Adult tickets can be purchased in advance for \$15.00. Children fifteen years of age and younger are free. Tickets purchased at the door the day of the performance are \$20.00. For ticket purchase and additional information, please contact Dr. Olenka (Helen) Chandoha at 570 842-3539; Diann Wolfe at

570 341-9383; or Paul Ewasko at 570 563-2275. *Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly encouraged as a sell-out is expected.*

THE BEHEADING OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER OF CHRIST, AND BAPTIST JOHN

August 29/September 11 [*from www.oca.org.*]

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The

frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated (February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked (Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligula (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.

VENERABLE MOSES THE ETHIOPIAN

August 28/September 10 [from www.oca.org]

Saint Moses Murin the Black lived during the fourth century in Egypt. He was an Ethiopian, and he was black of skin and therefore called "Murin" (meaning "like an Ethiopian"). In his youth he was the slave of an important man, but after he committed a murder, his master banished him, and he joined a band of

robbers.



Because of his bad character and great physical strength they chose him as their leader. Moses and his band of brigands did many evil deeds, both murders and robberies. People were afraid at the mere mention of his name.

Moses the brigand spent several years leading a sinful life, but through the great mercy of God he repented, left his band of robbers and went to one of the desert monasteries. Here he wept for a long time, begging to be admitted as one of the brethren. The monks were not convinced of the sincerity of his repentance, but the former robber would not be driven away nor silenced. He continued to ask that they accept him.

St Moses was completely obedient to the igumen and the brethren, and he poured forth many tears of sorrow for his sinful life. After a certain while St Moses withdrew to a solitary cell, where he spent the time in prayer and the strictest fasting in a very

austere lifestyle.

Once, four of the robbers of his former band descended upon the cell of St Moses. He had lost none of his great physical strength, so he tied them all up. Throwing them over his shoulder, he brought them to the monastery, where he asked the Elders what to do with them. The Elders ordered that they be set free. The robbers, learning that they had chanced upon their former ringleader, and that he had dealt kindly with them, followed his example: they repented and became monks. Later, when the rest of the band of robbers heard about the repentance of St Moses, then they also gave up their thievery and became fervent monks.

St Moses was not quickly freed from the passions. He went often to the igumen, Abba Isidore, seeking advice on how to be delivered from the passions of profligacy. Being experienced in the spiritual struggle, the Elder taught him never to eat too much food, to remain partly hungry while observing the strictest moderation. But the passions did not cease to trouble St Moses in his dreams.

Then Abba Isidore taught him the all-night vigil. The monk stood the whole night at prayer, so he would not fall asleep. From his prolonged struggles St Moses fell into despondency, and when there arose thoughts about leaving his solitary cell, Abba Isidore instead strengthened the resolve of his disciple.

In a vision he showed him many demons in the west, prepared for battle, and in the east a still greater quantity of holy angels, also ready for fighting. Abba Isidore explained to St Moses that the power of the angels would prevail over the power of the demons, and in the long struggle with the passions it was necessary for him to become completely cleansed of his former sins.

St Moses undertook a new effort. Making the rounds by night of the wilderness cells, he carried water from the well to each brother. He did this especially for the Elders, who lived far from the well and who were not easily able to carry their own water. Once, kneeling over the well, St Moses felt a powerful blow upon his back and he fell down at the well like one dead, laying there in that position until dawn. Thus did the devils take revenge upon the monk for his victory over them. In the morning the brethren carried him to his cell, and he lay there a whole year

crippled. Having recovered, the monk with firm resolve confessed to the igumen, that he would continue to live in asceticism. But the Lord Himself put limits to this struggle of many years: Abba Isidore blessed his disciple and said to him that the passions had already gone from him. The Elder commanded him to receive the Holy Mysteries, and to go to his own cell in peace. From that time, St Moses received from the Lord power over demons.

Accounts about his exploits spread among the monks and even beyond the bounds of the wilderness. The governor of the land wanted to see the saint. When he heard of this, St Moses decided to hide from any visitors, and he departed his own cell. Along the way he met servants of the governor, who asked him how to get to the cell of the desert-dweller Moses. The monk answered them: "Go no farther to see this false and unworthy monk." The servants returned to the monastery where the governor was waiting, and they told him the words of the Elder they had chanced to meet. The brethren, hearing a description of the Elder's appearance, told them that they had encountered St Moses himself.

After many years of monastic exploits, St Moses was ordained deacon. The bishop clothed him in white vestments and said, "Now Abba Moses is entirely white!" The saint replied, "Only outwardly, for God knows that I am still dark within."

Through humility, the saint believed himself unworthy of the office of deacon. Once, the bishop decided to test him and he bade the clergy to drive him out of the altar, reviling him as an unworthy Ethiopian. In all humility, the monk accepted the abuse. Having put him to the test, the bishop then ordained St Moses to be presbyter. St Moses labored for fifteen years in this rank, and gathered around himself 75 disciples.

When the saint reached age 75, he warned his monks that soon brigands would descend upon the skete and murder all that were there. The saint blessed his monks to leave, in order to avoid violent death. His disciples began to beseech the monk to leave with them, but he replied: "For many years already I have awaited the time when the words which my Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, should be fulfilled: "All who take up the sword, shall perish by the sword" (Mt. 26: 52). After this, seven of the brethren remained with

the monk, and one of them hid nearby during the attack of the robbers. The robbers killed St Moses and the six monks who remained with him. Their death occurred in about the year 400.

Parish Calendar Fall 2015

This is a working calendar and may be adjusted as necessary.

		Education	Meetings	Fund-Raisers & other
Sunday	06-Sep-15		Altar Society	
Friday	11-Sep-15			Pirohi
Sunday	13-Sep-15	1st Church School (instead of 9/20)	Board	
Saturday	19-Sep-15			Chicken Dinner
Sunday	20-Sep-15			
Friday	25-Sep-15			Pirohi
Sunday	27-Sep-15	Adult Enrichment		
Sunday	04-Oct-15	Church School, Adult Enrichment		
Friday	09-Oct-15			Pirohi
Sunday	11-Oct-15		Men's Club	
Sunday	18-Oct-15	Church School	Board	
Friday	23-Oct-15			Pirohi
Sunday	25-Oct-15		Annual Parish Meeting	
Sunday	01-Nov-15	Church School		
Friday	06-Nov-15			Pirohi
Sunday	08-Nov-15		Men's Club	
Sunday	15-Nov-15	Church School	Board	
Friday	20-Nov-15			Pirohi
Sunday	22-Nov-15	Adult Enrichment		
Sunday	29-Nov-15	Church School, Adult Enrichment		
Friday	04-Dec-15			Pirohi
Sunday	06-Dec-15		Altar Society, Men's Club	
Sunday	13-Dec-15	Church School	Board	
Friday	18-Dec-15			Pirohi
Sunday	20-Dec-15			St. Nicholas Banquet
Sunday	27-Dec-15			