

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

15TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Sep. 13 15th Sunday after Pentecost. Church
New Year. Monk Simeon the Stylite.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 6, pp 96–98.
Panachida: Julia Worobey – 40 day memorial.
Parish Board meets.

Sat., Sep. 19 Great-Prince Michael and Counselor
Theodore, Wonderworkers of
Chernigov.
Noon to 4:00 PM Chicken Dinner.

Sun., Sep. 20 16th Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday
Before the Exaltation of the Holy
Cross. Pre-feast of the Birth of Holy
Mary Theotokos. Martyr Sozon.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.
12 noon Holy Mysteries of Initiation -
Oliver Demetrios Bracey.

MON., SEP. 21 BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS.
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – pp 105–108.

Wed., Sep. 23 Martyrs Menodora, Mitrodora &
Nymphodora.
7:00 AM Pirohi Prep

Thu., Sep. 24 *Euphrosynus the Cook.* Nun Theodora
of Alexandria.
8:00 AM Pirohi Making.

Fri., Sep. 25 Last Day of the Feast of the Birth of
Holy Mary Theotokos. Martyred
Bishop Autonomous.
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Pirohi Sale

SUN., SEP. 27 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY & LIFE-
GIVING CROSS. 17TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST.

9:30 AM Enthronement of the Holy Cross &
Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.
*1st Church School Day (resch. from 9/13)
Adult Enrichment*

Confessions: Before Divine Liturgy

FASTS . . .

Strict Fast on the Day of the Cross: The feast of THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Sunday, September
27, is a *strict fast* day. Strict Fast means no meat, dairy,
wine or oil. We remember why Our Lord died on a
Cross on this day, and as a sign of repentance and
gratitude for the mercy of God, we abstain from eating
on this day.

... & FEASTS

THE BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS, Monday, September 21(8). Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM.

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY & LIFE-GIVING CROSS, Sunday, September 27(14).

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Julia Worobey

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. 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 Tighe. Gary Wassel.

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

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

For 9/6/15:

Eternal Light: Janina Dyrol – Bonk family.

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9/11: IN PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE

From OCA.org.

This day marked the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorists attacks on New York City, Shanksville, PA, and Arlington, VA.

The day—and indeed this weekend—remains one of particular prayer and reflection. Surely there is much upon which we might reflect and about which we might pray—the ongoing conflicts and sorrows being experienced across the globe, especially the tens of thousands of migrants from the Middle East now suffering as they seek new homes and opportunities in Europe and beyond; discerning appropriate responses despite the ever-changing political landscape; the

suffering of countless Christians in so many corners of our world; the challenge to maintain focus on “our true home,” the Kingdom of God, wondrously in our midst yet all-too-often overshadowed by this fallen world; and ultimately, the need to acknowledge that great gift of repentance, the very heart of the Gospel, to which all mankind has been called to embrace in faith and love.

On this day and throughout the coming weekend, let us pray for those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks, as well as for their families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of those with whom, just one day earlier, they had walked and talked; for those who so selflessly reached out to victims and survivors alike on that tragic day; for those brave first responders—fire fighters and physicians, police and military personnel and officials, clergy and counselors and coworkers—who risked their “all” to bring comfort and hope to friend and stranger alike; and for everyone still struggling to “make sense” of that which, by nature, is senseless.

Among those who lost their lives on 9/11 and for whom we pray on this day are two dozen Orthodox Christians, a list of whom has been compiled and maintained over the years. While the list may not be complete—if readers know of anyone whose name should be added to the list, please send it to info@oca.org—our Lord assures us that our prayers, even for those whose names have been forgotten or who are known to Him alone, will not go unanswered.

Let us especially remember our brothers and sisters in Christ, asking the One Who is our very Life and Resurrection to grant them eternal rest with the saints, that “they may shine like the stars of heaven” in the Kingdom of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—the very Kingdom to which we all aspire.

Orthodox Christians known to have perished on September 11, 2001: Joanna Ahladiotis. Anastasios (Ernest) Alikakos. Alan Bondarenko. Katerina Bantis. Lieutenant Peter (Panagiotis) Brennan. Anthony Demas. Kontantinos Ekonomos. Anna Fosteris. Peter Hansen. Vassilios Haramis. John Katsimatidis, Danielle Kousoulis. Eskedar Melaku. George Merkouris. Peter Constantine Moutos. James Nicholas Papageorge. George Paris. Theodore Pigis. Daphne Pouletsos. Anthony (Tony) Savas. Derek Statkevicius. Andrew Stergiopoulos. Michael Tarrou. William

Tselepis. Prokopios (Paul) Zois.

“With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Your departed servants, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting!”

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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!

REFLECTION ON WAR

War makes death real to us: and that would have been regarded as one of its blessings by most of the great Christians of the past. They thought it good for us to be always aware of our mortality. I am inclined to think they were right. All the animal life in us, all schemes of happiness that centered in this world, were always doomed to a final frustration. In ordinary times only a wise [person] can realize it. Now the stupidest of us knows. We see unmistakably the sort of universe in which we have all along been living, and must come to terms with it. If we had foolish un-Christian hopes about human culture, they are now shattered. If we thought we were building up a heaven on earth, if we looked for something that would turn the present world from a place of pilgrimage into a permanent city satisfying the soul . . . we are disillusioned, and not a moment too soon. But if we thought that for some souls, and at some times, the life of learning, humbly offered to God, was, in its own small way, one of the appointed approaches to the Divine reality and the Divine beauty which we hope to enjoy hereafter, we can think so still."(CS Lewis)

PARISH STUFF

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 *schedule change:* I noted in the last bulletin that the *Parish Calendar* was a working calendar and subject to change as needed. Well, here is the first change. The First Day of Church School will be Sunday, September 27 instead of today.

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.

Lost N Found: In the Lost n Found box in the vestibule are the following items, most of which have been there for a while. Perhaps you are missing something and couldn't figure out where it is. Please take whatever is yours – we will be getting rid of whatever is left soon. It is a short list:

- woman's white sweater
- reading glasses
- pearl button
- gold earring

PARISH FUND RAISERS

PIROHI SALE!!! We had a very good start to the Pirohi Season, with a good crew of workers. It was good to see so many of you back, and to welcome new faces!

The next sale is Fri., Sept. 25. We'll be working Wed, Sept. 23 starting around 7 AM and Thu., Sept. 24 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.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

ST. MICHAEL'S Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 North Main St., Pittston, Pa. will have a **BREAKFAST today!**, Sunday, September 13th from 9am to 1pm at St. Michael's Church Hall. Tickets are Adults \$8.00 and Children under 12 - \$5.00. The menu will include: scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, French toast and pancakes with coffee, tea or juice. This will benefit our upcoming Church Anniversary. Everyone is welcome!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

August 30, 2015

\$342.00	General Collection
10.00	1st Sunday
81.00	7 Day Light
13.00	Holy Days
20.00	Parking Donation
16.00	Taper Candles
14.00	Eternal Light
<u>275.00</u>	Memory of Julia Worobey
\$771.00	Total

September 6, 2015

\$599.00	General Collection
174.00	1st Sunday
47.00	7 Day Light
42.00	Holy Days
92.00	Church Dues
6.00	Taper Candles
30.00	Heat Offering
<u>50.00</u>	Maintenance & Repairs
1040.00	Total

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.*

CARPATHO-RUSYNS IN NORTHERN PA

The Eastern Pa. Chapter of the **Carpatho-Rusyn Society** will present a discussion on Carpatho-Rusyns in NEPA history, *Traditions and Life in Northern PA Coalfields*. Sat., OCTOBER 3rd, 9 AM – 3 PM. The seminar will be held at St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 N. Main St. Pittston, Pa. 18640.

Discussion Topics:

- Dr. Michele Parvensky (9AM – 10:30 AM) addresses "Stari kraj – The old country"
- Richard Custer(10:45 -12:15) focuses on "The Greater Pittston Area and St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church: A Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrant Hub of the Wyoming Valley"
- Dr. Peter Yasenachak (1:30 – 2:45) will discuss "The richness of our coalfields and our ancestors who toiled in them."

Refreshments available

An RSVP would be appreciated. Contact shangp@rcn.com or phone 610-759-2628 for more information. Also on www.c-rs.org

NEW AD! 13th Annual Ethnic Food Festival. St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 540 N. Main Ave. Sunday, Sept. 27, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many ethnic specialties! See flyer on the hall bulletin board for details!

From **ACT OUT THEATRE GROUP** of Taylor, PA. We are please to announce an upcoming musical production, **CHILDREN OF EDEN**. The production features our senior student ensemble (age 13 - 18) and tells the inspirational story of parents, children and faith through song.

The amazing musical score by Stephen Schwartz & John Caird features Adam, Eve, Noah and the "Father" who created them as they deal with the headstrong, cataclysmic actions of their respective children. This show ultimately delivers a bittersweet - but inspiring message: that "the hardest part of love... is letting go." Performance Dates: Oct. 30- Nov. 6, 2015 Group Tickets: Groups of 10 or more - \$12.00 per tickets

Regular Admission: \$20.00 adults / \$15.00 students. Please email actoutevents@gmail.com or call 570-881-4206 for information.

PATRIARCHAL MESSAGE FOR THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR AND THE DAY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Aug 26, 2015

Prot. No. 851

+ BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Mercy

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church Grace, Peace and Mercy
From the Creator, Sustainer and Governor of All Creation
Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

"All of creation is renewed by the Holy Spirit, returning to its original state." (Anavathmoi, First Tone)

"Blessed are you, Lord, who alone daily renew the work of your hands." (Basil the Great)

Brother concelebrants and blessed children in the Lord,

As everyone knows, September 1st of each year has been dedicated at the initiative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate – and recently also by the Roman Catholic Church – as a day of prayer for the protection of the natural environment. On this day, we especially beseech the supreme God to gladden His creation so that human life therein may be joyful and fruitful. This prayer includes of course the petition that the inevitable natural climate changes may occur and be permitted within tolerable levels both for human survival and for the planet's sustainability.

Nonetheless, we humans – whether as individual groups or collectively – behave contrary to this very request. For we suppress nature in such a manner that unforeseeable and undesirable changes occur to the climate and environment, which are negatively affected in their normal functions with consequent implications for life itself. The cumulative result of actions by particular individuals as well as by corporate and state activities with a view to reforming the natural environment so that it might produce more resources for those who take advantage of it only leads to the destruction of creation, which was created good by God and thus functions in a balanced way.

Those of us who appreciate the danger of climate change that is only increasing by day for our planet as a result of human actions raise our voice to highlight this crisis and invite everyone to explore what could be done "so that life is not lost for the sake of greed." (United Nations Declaration)

Therefore, as Ecumenical Patriarch, we have expended years of efforts to inform the faithful of our Church

and all people of good will about the grave risks deriving from growing (ab-)use of energy resources, which threatens increasing global warming and threatens the sustainability of the natural environment.

Orthodox Christians have learned from the Church Fathers to restrict and reduce our needs as far as possible. In response to the ethos of consumerism we propose the ethos of asceticism, namely an ethos of self-sufficiency to what is needed. This does not mean deprivation but rational and restrained consumption as well as the moral condemnation of waste. “So if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content” (1 Tim. 6.8), as the Lord’s Apostle urges us. And after the multiplication of the five loaves and the satisfaction of five thousand people, excluding women and children, Christ Himself ordered His disciples to collect the remainder “so that nothing would be lost.” (John 6.12) Unfortunately, contemporary societies have abandoned the application of this commandment, surrendering to wastefulness and irrational abuse to satisfy vain desires of prosperity. However, such conduct can be transformed for the sake of creating resources and energy by more appropriate means.

Brothers and sisters, children in our common Lord and Creator,

Human beings have destroyed creation through greed by focusing exclusively on this earth and its earthly benefits, which we endeavor to increase constantly, like the “rich fool” in the Gospel parable. (Luke 12. 13-21) We ignore the Holy Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being. This signifies that the response to the ecological crisis can only be successfully realized in the Holy Spirit, through whose grace our human efforts are blessed and all creation is renewed, returning to its original state, as it was created and intended by God – namely, “very good.” This is why the responsibility of humanity, as God’s co-creator endowed with free will, is immense for any proper response to the ecological crisis.

This earth resembles “an immense pile of filth.” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, 2015) And impurity implies more than simply material things; it primarily includes spiritual things. There are the impurities that essentially stem from the passionate thoughts of humanity. With firm faith in the Pantokrator and Creator of all creation, we Orthodox Christians are called to carry out the work of an evangelist and missionary with regard to the protection of creation. That is to say, we are called to rekindle the joyful gospel message to the modern troubled world and awaken the sleeping spiritual nature of a humanity diversely and multifariously distressed in order to convey a message of hope, peace and true joy – the peace and joy of Christ.

This is what we believe and proclaim from the most holy Apostolic and Patriarchal Ecumenical Throne. And we invite everyone to soberness of life, purification of passionate thoughts and selfish motivations, so that we may dwell in harmony with our neighbors and with God’s creation. Finally, we pray with Basil the Great, “who extolled the nature of things”: “Blessed are you, Lord, who alone daily renew the work of your hands. Blessed are you, Lord, who created light and darkness, distinguishing between them from each other. Blessed are you, Lord, who created all things and constructed the shadow of death by blackening the day into night. Blessed are you, Lord, who created humankind in your image and likeness, who made the day for the work of light and the night for human nature to rest . . .” (Psalter and Prayer Book, Pantokrator Monastery, Mt. Athos, 2004)

This is our message, conviction and exhortation to you all: Let us stand well; let us stand in awe before God’s creation.

May the grace and boundless mercy of our Lord, the Creator of all creation, both visible and invisible, be with you all and with the whole world, now and to the endless ages. Amen.

September 1, 2015

+Bartholomew of Constantinople

Fervent supplicant of all before God

He that plants trees loves others beside himself.
— Thomas Fuller