

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

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

PRE-FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF HOLY MARY THEOTOKOS

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Sep. 20 16<sup>th</sup> 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.  
8:00 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. 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.  
9:30 AM Enthronement of the Holy Cross & Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.  
*Adult Enrichment*

**Confessions:** Before Divine Liturgy

## FASTS . . .

**Fasting on the Day of the Cross:** The feast of THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, Sunday, September 27, is a day of *fast*. I know it sounds strange to call a fasting day a *feast*, but we are still celebrating that day, even if it is a solemn celebration.

On that day we fast from *meat and dairy only*. Last week I made the mistake of calling it a Strict Fast, since many people (and even dioceses ) use that word for the no meat/no dairy fast. I apologize for the confusion. 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, tomorrow, 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:*

*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 Tiguel. Gary Wassel.

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

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

*Eternal Light:* Peter, Margaret & Richard Farkaly from Bill & Beverly Thomas.

**Congratulations & God Bless!** To **Oliver Demetrios Bracey** who receives the Holy Mysteries of Initiation today. May God bless Oliver, his parents Tim & Christina, and godparents Benjamin Groves & Elisabeth Brune. Many years!

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH**

September 13, 2015

\$547.00 General Collection  
 6.00 1st Sunday  
 75.00 7 Day Light  
 855.00 Pirohi Sale  
 21.00 Holy Days  
 92.00 Church Dues  
 16.00 Taper Candles  
 20.00 Maintenance & Repairs  
 30.00 Memory of Julia Worobey

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**\$1,662.00 Total**

***Distinguished Diocesan Donors:*** Stephanie Bonk. Ed Bonk, Jr. Carol Pugh.

**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**

**A Heartfelt Thanks & God Bless!** To Everyone who worked for and donated toward the Chicken Dinner

yesterday. It went very well, and we received many compliments on the dinner! People are already asking when we are going to have the next one!

**Chickens for Sale!** We do have some leftover chickens for sale. We are offering a whole roasted chicken for \$7.00 each. If you are interested, please stop in at the office and see Nick or Maryann Polanichka.

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

**3D Time!** Once again it is time to consider becoming a *Distinguished Diocesan Donor*. As you all know, the vast majority of 3D funds goes to support our Camp Nazareth. Please consider becoming a 3D'er for only \$100 per person. We will be listing parish donors in the bulletin.

**Church School schedule change, redux.** For a variety of reasons mostly beyond our control, we are having problems getting the Church School off the ground this year. We will not be able to start Church School until *Sunday, Oct. 4*. While such a late start is not the best of circumstances, I still look forward to having a very good program this year. We hope to be starting off strongly, even if a bit late this year.

**Adult Enrichment still on track:** First gathering will be next Sunday, September 27. We are planning to meet downstairs. If the stairs are a problem for anyone, please let me know. We are trying to figure out how to accommodate everyone. 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

**. . .& Looking:** The parish is in need of a four-drawer filing cabinet (usual business-office type) for the Hall Office. If you have one in good condition, or know

where one could be obtained, please see Nick Polanichka.

## 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 8 AM (please note the time change), and Thu., Sept. 24 starting around 8 AM.

**Sneak Preview!** *A Spaghetti Dinner* is planned for on Saturday, October 31. More details later! Contrary to popular rumour, we are not planning to serve black spaghetti with orange sauce, although, it would be interesting. . . .

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**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.

**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.*

**13<sup>th</sup> 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!

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.c-rs.org)

**ST. MARY'S INTERNATIONAL DINNER** - 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. will host OKTOBERFEST on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the Church Center. This time it will feature a traditional German Cuisine starting with Bratwurst & Potato Chowder. The entrée will be Pork Jaeger Schnitzel (Breaded pork cutlet, topped with bacon, onion, mushroom sauce, served with warm German Potato salad and roasted white asparagus with Hollandaise sauce topped with Pumpernickel breadcrumbs). The dessert will be an Apple Raisin Streudel with Orange and Vanilla crème Fraiche. Water, Tea, Soda or Coffee is complimentary. There are two seatings 5:30 or 6:30pm. The cost is \$20.00 per person and your reservation must be in by Tuesday October 6. Please call: 570-343-5151.

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](mailto:actoutevents@gmail.com) or call 570-881-4206 for information.

There is no such thing as can't, only won't. It all comes from your mind.  
-JanAshford

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

SEPTEMBER 8/21. *From www.OCA.org.*

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.