

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY & LIFE-GIVING CROSS

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

PARISH CALENDAR

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.

Panachida: Eugene Danchak by Susan Danchak.

Quick Men's Club Meeting in the kitchen.

Adult Enrichment

Sun., Oct. 4 18th Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Apostle Codratus.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.

Church School

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*. 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.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Helene Flaherty.

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. 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.

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!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

September 20, 2015

\$502.00	General Collection
2.00	1st Sunday
94.00	7 Day Light
23.00	Holy Days
92.00	Church Dues
9.00	Taper Candles
49.00	Maintenance & Repairs
7.00	Eternal Light
1,409.00	Chicken Dinner

\$2,191.00	Total

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

PARISH STUFF

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. We are still planning to begin Church School next Sunday, Oct. 4.

Adult Enrichment today First gathering will be meeting downstairs during Coffee Hour. 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.

...& 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!!! Thanks to all who came out to help this past week. The next sale is Fri., October 9. Sept. 25. We'll be working Wed, Oct. 7 starting around 8 AM and Thu., Sept. 24 starting around 8 AM.

Sneak Preview! A *Spaghetti Dinner* is planned for on Saturday, October 31.

Chicken Dinner financial report:

\$1,148.00	Sales
<u>296.00</u>	Donations
\$1,444.00	Total Income
<u>(564.19)</u>	Expenses
\$ 879.81	Net Profit

Very nicely done! Congratulations on a successful dinner!

ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, October 25, after Divine Liturgy.

This meeting includes, as always, elections to the Parish Board. The two-year term for all officers and three Board members end this year.

●Officers of the Board:

- President - Jane Togher
- Vice-President - Bill Wassel
- Secretary - John Shimo
- Treasurer - Nick Polanichka
- Financial Secretary - Maryann Polanichka

●Three Trustees:

- Mary Brizinski
- Walter Orzolek
- Bill Thomas

●The following 1-year auditor terms will end:

- Lorraine Kacaba
- Christine Bracey

Please remember that the quorum for an Annual Meeting is 25 members. All parishioners are encouraged to attend and participate in the operation of St. Nicholas Church. As always, all nominations for these offices are welcome.

If you have any topics you would like to be presented at the meeting, you can either contact Jane Togher or place them in the suggestion box located in the Church hall in order to have them added to the agenda. We look forward to seeing you at the parish meeting.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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

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

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 though 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.

THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

September 14/27. *from www.oca.org*

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to St Macarius,

Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching St Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem.

During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28). The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and

where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khozroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khozroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, St Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast".