

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 10.1

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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OCTOBER 4, 2015

SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY & LIFE-GIVING CROSS

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST.

PARISH CALENDAR

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

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.
Panachida: Michael Sovitch by Denise
Sovitch & Larry Czibik
Church School
Adult Enrichment
Altar Society Meeting

Sun., Oct. 11 19th Sunday after Pentecost. 1st Sunday
of Luke. Monk Chariton the Confessor.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 2, pp 84–86

Confessions: Before Divine Liturgy

FEASTS

*Next Feast Day is the Protection of Holy Mary
Theotokos, on Wed., Oct. 14.*

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!

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

Deceased: Helene Flaherty.

Living: Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Stephanie Bonk. Gloria 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 Tighe. Gary Wassel.

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

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

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. Begins today.

Altar Society meets today to discuss the Spaghetti Dinner.

Adult Enrichment today We had a very interesting discussion during our first gathering last week. We will again be meeting in the Board Room downstairs this week for our second gathering. Again, all are welcome. Next meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 22.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS	
CHURCH	
Sept. 27, 2015	
\$535.00	General Collection
102.00	7 Day Light
1,207.00	Pirohi Sale
90.00	Holy Days
15.00	Taper Candles
277.00	Heat Offering

\$2,226.00	Total
<i>Distinguished Diocesan Donors:</i> Stephanie Bonk, Ed Bonk, Jr. Carol Pugh.	

PARISH FUND RAISERS

PIROHI SALE!!! This week on Fri., October 9. We'll be working Wed, Oct. 7 and Thu., Oct. 8. Both days we will start around 8 AM.

Spaghetti Dinner: TAKE OUT OR DINE IN Saturday October 31st. 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM or Until Sold Out
Price \$10.00 a Person. Includes: Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Bread and Dessert. To Order ahead call 570/344-1522

Bake Sale! At the Spaghetti Dinner, Oct. 31. Since it is Halloween, we are asking *everyone in the church*, not just the Altar Society, to bake something for the bake sale such as cookies, cupcakes, brownies, cobbler, candy apples, etc. We would appreciate it if you could contact Carol Pugh to let her know what you are bringing at 570-489-2321 or toots638@comcast.net.

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MARTYR SOPHIA AND HER THREE DAUGHTERS FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE AT ROME

September 17/October 1. *from www.oca.org*

The Holy Martyrs Saint Sophia (whose name means Wisdom) and her Daughters Faith, Hope and Love were born in Italy. Their mother was a pious Christian widow who named her daughters for the three Christian virtues. Faith was twelve, Hope was ten, and Love was nine. St Sophia raised them in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. St Sophia and her daughters did not hide their faith in Christ, but openly confessed it before everyone.

An official named Antiochus denounced them to the emperor Hadrian (117-138), who ordered that they be brought to Rome. Realizing that they would be taken before the emperor, the holy virgins prayed fervently to the Lord Jesus Christ, asking that He give them the strength not to fear torture and death. When the holy virgins and their mother came before the emperor, everyone present was amazed at their composure. They looked as though they had been brought to some happy festival, rather than to torture. Summoning each of the sisters in turn, Hadrian urged them to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. The young girls remained unyielding.

Then the emperor ordered them to be tortured. They burned the holy virgins over an iron grating, then threw them into a red-hot oven, and finally into a cauldron with boiling tar, but the Lord preserved them.

The youngest child, Love, was tied to a wheel and they beat her with rods until her body was covered all over with bloody welts. After undergoing unspeakable torments, the holy virgins glorified their Heavenly Bridegroom and remained steadfast in the Faith.

They subjected St Sophia to another grievous torture: the mother was forced to watch the suffering of her daughters. She displayed adamant courage, and urged her daughters to endure their torments for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. All three maidens were beheaded, and joyfully bent their necks beneath the sword.

In order to intensify St Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city

limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. St Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

The relics of the holy martyrs have rested at El'zasa, in the church of Esho since the year 777.

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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
OCF'S WINTER BREAK COLLEGE CONFERENCE!

From the Diocese:

Glory To Jesus Christ!

His Grace Bishop Gregory has asked us to forward to your attention following information regarding OCF's College Conference during Winter Break. His Grace asks that you publicize this in your parish and that you forward this email to your parish college students.

As you will read below, this fantastic event will be offered free of charge to our Diocesan College Students (\$250 registration fee and a portion of their travel expenses up to a total of \$500)

All parish college students are urged to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity for fellowship with other Orthodox Christians their age.

JOHNSTOWN, PA - The Diocesan Chancery is pleased to announce that registration for the 2015 College Conferences is now open. The conferences will be held during Christmas Break in two locations: St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, Calif and Antiochian Village in Bolivar, Pa.; each centering on Orthodox Christian Fellowship's (OCF) theme for the year - "Modern Martyrs: Witnesses of the Word."

This College Conference theme will address our calling to be martyrs for Christ by being witnesses of the Faith. As college students living in a secularized world, there are numerous opportunities for us as Orthodox Christians to be witnesses/martyrs for Christ on college campuses: in the dorm room, on social media, and in every aspect of our lives. This theme will also address the current-day persecution of Christians and provide some insights into how we can best aid our Christian brothers and sisters across the globe.

Annually, nearly 400 college students from across North America participate in College Conference to learn and grow closer in their Orthodox Faith in an exemplary display of pan-Orthodox fellowship. Each four-day conference includes a prominent keynote speaker, along with workshops led by clergy and lay leaders who are experts in their related fields.

Last year, as in the past several years, Bishop Gregory was joined by a number of Diocesan College Students at College Conference East who had an awesome

experience! Here To Read Reflections On Their Experience This year, the Nun Vassa [Larin] will deliver the keynote address. Workshop Speakers will include: Steven Christoforou - Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Office of Camping Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; V. Rev. Fr. Timothy Hojnicky - Rector of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission in Mechanicsburg, PA; V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Loposky - Director of Camp Nazareth and Pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Mercer, PA; Fr. Alexandros Petrides and Pres. Stephanie Petrides and Dr. Timothy Patitsas - Assistant Professor of Ethics at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

This year, as in the past, full scholarships and partial reimbursement of travel expenses to College Conference East are being offered to our (ACROD) Diocesan Students on a first-come-first-serve basis to encourage more students to attend. Students are urged to register online ASAP on the OCF Website. Students are required to fill out the on-line scholarship application and pay the \$150.00 deposit, which will be refunded when all Diocesan Students register. To register, students attending college conference for the first time need to register for an ocf events registration account. Returning attendees may log on with their existing ocf events registration account.

When registered, students are asked to contact Fr. Stephen Loposky, Diocesan Youth Director at campnazareth@acrod.org or 607-329-2844 BEFORE making travel arrangements. Diocesan students are kindly asked to register ASAP as with each passing year registration tends to close quickly due to the popularity of this conference.

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA. www.acrod.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 Pumpnickel 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.

Marywood University,
Suraci Gallery,
Shields Center for Visual Art, 2nd Floor
Oct. 25 - Dec. 6
Mon., Thu., Fri., 9 AM – 4 PM.
Tue., Wed., 9 AM – 8 PM.
Sat., Sun., 1 PM – 4 PM.

**THE MOTHER OF GOD AND THE SAINTS:
A CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION**

As we honor Marywood University's 100th anniversary and IHM tradition, we welcome the community to experience magnificent icons and relics on loan from St. Tikhon's Monastery and the Metropolitan Museum of the Orthodox Church of America at St. Tikhon's Monastery in Waymart, PA. Organized by Fr. John Perich, curator for St. Tikhon's Museum and Icon Repository, and Fr. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA, Villanova University, the discerning exhibition celebrates the continuing dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodoxy.

Sun., Oct. 25 at 4 PM, a Lecture will be given titled, "Witnessing the Mother of God and her intercessory role in the lives of the Saints of the Eastern Orthodox Church."

Given by Archpriest Fr. John Kowalczyk, Professor at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and Alumnus of Marywood University.
Reception will follow.

Free admission and open to the public.

The Book Sale Committee of St. Thomas More Parish BIG, BIG, BIG Book and Bake Sale - Saturday, October 24, 2015, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch will be served 11-1. St. Thomas More Parish at St. Joseph Church, N. Main Ave & Theodore St, North Scranton.

Round up your old books NOW and drop them off

at the rectory. PLEASE - NO ROMANCE NOVELS OR MAGAZINES! Then join us on 10/24 to stock up for the winter! For more Information: 570-343-0634

"Trunk or Treat" for Halloween 2015 in Olyphant, PA. Saturday, October 24, 2015 at the "Wargo-Monsignor Hrynuck- Beckage Sports Complex" at 700 Block of East Grant Street, FernHill Section of Olyphant. at 1:00 p.m. Decorate your car and join the FUN!!! Over 300 children attended the event in 2014. Volunteers are needed. Contact Krukovitz or Foley for donations of TREATS to be handed out!!!!

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN, SAFE, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!!! All kids invited to come in Halloween Costumes. Decorate your trunks/vehicles for Halloween and hand out treats. The children will go car to car in a safe secure area on the Baseball field. To REGISTER your car call David Krukovitz 570-780-4446 or Paula Foley at 570-351-8452. (only registered decorated vehicles will be allowed on the field.)

Car Arrival at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday

Trunk and Treating Starts at 1:00 p.m.

Child Fingerprinting, Hot Dogs and Hot Chocolate at the Eureka Volunteer Fire Company (across from the Baseball field) 3:00 p.m.

There will be a prize for "THE BEST" DECORATED TRUNK VEHICLE only!!!! Volunteers are needed. Contact Krukovitz or Foley for donations of TREATS to be handed out!!!!

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 Schwarts & 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 HOLY BELT OF THE THEOTOKOS

By Father Demetrios Serfes

August 31/September 13 –

the last day of the Church Year

The Most Venerable and full of grace Belt of our Blessed Virgin Mary, which is found at the Holy Great Monastery of Vatopedi in Agios Oros (Holy Mount Athos), is the only precious souvenir that survives from her earthly life.

According to the Sacred Tradition and the history of our Church, the Most Holy Theotokos three days after she fell asleep she rose from the dead and ascended in body to the heavens. During her ascension, she gave her Holy Belt to the Apostle Thomas. Thomas, along with the rest of the holy Apostles, opened up her grave and didn't find the body of the Theotokos. In this way, the Holy Belt is proof for our Church of her Resurrection and bodily ascension to the heavens, and, in a word, at her metastasis.

The Holy Belt, according to the tradition, was made by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself with camel hair. The Empress Zoi, out of gratitude for her miraculous cure, embroidered the Belt with gold thread, as it is found today, but divided into three pieces. Originally it was being kept in Jerusalem and later in Constantinople. There during the 12th century under Manuel A'Komninos (1143-1180) an official holiday for the Belt was established on August 31st. In the end, Emperor John the 6th Katakouzinos (1347-1355), who had a special love toward the Holy Great Monastery of Vatopedi, as is evidenced by many related accounts, donated the Belt to the Monastery. Since then, the Holy Belt is kept at the Holy Monastery of Vatopedi, in a silver case of newer manufacture which depicts the Monastery. On the bottom right border of the depiction the artist made a drawing of the donor.

Numerous are the miracles, that have taken place up to today with the Holy Belt. Its value is priceless

because it's associated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She has the grace and to her the miraculous power is attributed, which with many ways she transmits to the faithful. The Holy Belt has the unique grace to cure women's sterility as well as cancer patients, with a ribbon that has firstly been blessed on the Belt and is subsequently worn by sterile women and patients.

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.

—James Allen



Spaghetti Dinner

(Take Out or Dine In)

Saturday October 31st

**12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM
or Until Sold Out**

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
505 Jefferson Ave., Scranton
Corner of Vine Street**

Price \$10.00 a Person