

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 10.2

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., Pastor  
Rectory: 570-344-5917  
Cell: 724-953-6046  
nferencz35@gmail.com  
www.stnicholasorthodoxscranton.org

Jane Togher, Board President  
570-842-3311  
jctogher@gmail.com  
Madelyn Hodanich, Choir Director  
Hall - 570-344-1522

OCTOBER 11, 2015

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. 1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Oct. 11 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke. Monk Chariton the Confessor.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 2, pp 84–86  
*Men's Club* meets.

Wed., Oct. 14 *Protection of Holy Mary Theotokos*  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy – pp 113–114

Sun., Oct. 18 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke. Monk Chariton the Confessor. Prophet Baruch.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – pp 87–89  
*Church School*  
*Parish Board* meets

**Confessions:** Before Divine Liturgy

## FEASTS

*The Protection of Holy Mary Theotokos* is this Wed., Oct. 14. Divine Liturgy is at 9 AM.

## PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* Helene Flaherty. Edward Hawley.

*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 & 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.

*Eternal Light:* Ernest Bentler, Jr. – the Bentler family.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Latest Delivery!** Six boxes of food were delivered to the Breadbasket of NE PA on Wednesday. They were very grateful especially during the teacher strike since there are a number of students in Scranton who rely on the School's free lunches during the day. They sent their heartfelt thanks to our parishioners who continue to support their efforts.

## 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.

*Men's Club* regular monthly meeting is today.

**Church School** meets next Sunday.

**Parish Board** meets next Sunday.

**Adult Enrichment.** We had another good

conversation this past Sunday. The next gathering will be Sunday, November 22.

are bringing at 570-489-2321 or [toots638@comcast.net](mailto:toots638@comcast.net).

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.

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS  
CHURCH**  
Oct. 4, 2015

\$370.75	General Collection
80.00	7 Day Light
50.00	1st Sunday
2.00	Holy Days
8.00	Taper Candles
276.00	Church Dues
5.00	Heat Offering
-----	
\$791.75	Total

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

**FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF**

**NEPA Rail Forum:** Congressman Matt Cartwright invites you to a Forum on “Bringing Commuter Rail Service to Northeastern Pennsylvania via the New Jersey Transit System.” Come witness a lively discussion of the possibilities,

featuring the new PennDOT Secretary, Leslie Richards, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator, Therese McMillan.

Tuesday, October 13, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. (with a coffee reception from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)

The Horizon Room at The Inn at Pocono Manor, 1 Manor Drive (off of Route 314), Pocono Manor, PA 18349.

**College Student Sunday & Special Collection:** On Sunday, October 25, 2015, Orthodox parishes across North America, of all Orthodox jurisdictions, are being asked to celebrate College Student Sunday -- recognizing our college students and bringing awareness to Orthodox campus ministry that is taking place through the efforts of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), an endorsed ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

Statistics show us that more than 6 out of 10 of all young adults, including Orthodox, leave the Church after graduating from high school and college. To counteract this trend, OCF is on the frontlines of campuses engaging our students in the Orthodox faith

**PARISH FUND RAISERS**

**PIROHI SALE!!!** Next Sale is Friday, October 23. We'll be working Wed, Oct. 21 and Thu., Oct. 22. Both days we will start around 8 AM.

**Spaghetti Dinner:** TAKE OUT OR DINE IN Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>. 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

through fellowship, education, worship, and service. Through this four-tiered approach, college students who participate in OCF make their way from schools to parishes spiritually stronger and ready to serve.

Our Diocesan Bishop Gregory is the Episcopal Liaison for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and he is calling upon our parish's support of the good works of the OCF on College Student Sunday. In particular, there will be a *Special Colletion* on October 25, 2015 for the benefit of OCF. Parishes may choose to augment the collection with parish funds.

#### **ANNUAL FALL YOUTH ENCOUNTER:**

Glory To Jesus Christ!

Dear Diocesan Clergy and Faithful

His Grace, Bishop Gregory has blessed us to forward to your attention the following information regarding the Annual Fall Youth Encounter. It is asked that you publicize the event in your parish by announcing it from the pulpit and publishing it in your parish newsletter.

Due to planned renovations at Camp Nazareth, The National Jr. ACRY will be hosting its Weekend Encounter at St Nicholas Orthodox Church in New York City over Veteran's Day Weekend. The event will be held from November 6 -8, 2015, and is open to youth ages 8 - 18. You do not have to be a member of the Jr. ACRY to attend.

The weekend's activities will include time for prayer, recreating, learning more about the Faith, and more. During the weekend, you can catch up with old friends, make new friends, and have fun while living the Faith.

Due to kind hospitality of St. Nicholas Church, the cost will be only \$65.00 for the weekend. We have a limited number of spots and everyone will be taken on a first come, first serve basis, so please register ASAP!

There are three steps to registering this year:

1. R S V P by October 18th to [juliatimko@hunterschools.org](mailto:juliatimko@hunterschools.org) with your name, age, and any allergies you may have.

2. Download and complete the registration form on <http://acrod.org/news/7283/jrencounter2015> and send it with a check for \$65 payable to "St. Nicholas Choir" by October 25th to: Justine Timko, 89 79th street, Brooklyn, NY 11209. The deadline to register for the event is October 25th.

Sincerely, The Diocesan Chancery Staff.

**The Third Annual Rusyn Genealogy Conference "Our Culture"** Coming October 24, 2015! Come join us on Saturday (10/24/2015) from 9AM-4PM at King's College Campus Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Speakers include John Righetti, Tom and Kathryn Peters and John Schweich. They will provide an in depth glimpse into our rich cultural legacy. You are welcome to bring documents for interpretation. This conference costs \$40.00 and includes a breakfast buffet, lunch, and afternoon refreshment. Merchandise will be available for purchase as well as a basket raffle. This event is sponsored by the Eastern PA Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. More information is available at <http://www.c-rs.org/>.

Please RSVP by October 20th to Sharon Jarrow ([shangp@rcn.com](mailto:shangp@rcn.com) or call 610-759-2628) or mail check made to C-RS Eastern PA to Michele Parvensky~347 West Beil Avenue~Nazareth, PA 18064. We look forward to seeing you there!

**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!!!!

Marywood University,  
Suraci Gallery,  
Shields Center for Visual Art, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Public Service Announcement:** please help a neighbor and friend!!!! GENO COMONIE a life time resident of Olyphant has been battling Multiple Myeloma, a form of bone cancer.

A Pasta Dinner will be held for Geno to help out a neighbor and friend!!!! On November 7th, 2015 Saturday, the Pasta Dinner will be held at the Eureka

Hose Co. Firehouse at 700 block of East Grant Street, across from the Baseball Field-Sports Complex in the Fernhill section of Olyphant, PA 18447. Call Kim Atkinson at 570-383-9552. Plenty of Free Parking. Raffle gifts and 50/50 tickets will be available for purchase. Donations also accepted by contacting Kim Atkinson.

Sit-down dinners starts at 4:00 p.m-8:00 p.m. Take out Dinners are available from 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are pre-sold at \$10.00/ticket. Dinner includes:Pasta, salad, rolls, dessert and refreshments. Call: Kim at 570-383-9552, Mike at 570-241-2065, Paul 570-499-0908, Joanne at 570-382-3524 or any member of the Eureka Hose company. Limited amount of tickets will be sold at the door.

Geno has been hospitalized for months on end and has gone under grueling treatment. He had a brief remission. The Cancer has returned. Geno has over come many obstacles and heartaches in his lifetime: Losing part of his hand as a child, the recently the deaths of his wife and sister to cancer. This event will ease some of the burden of his mounting medical bills.

Please plan to help out in any way possible....Please keep Geno Comonie in your prayers.

**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 Lopusky - 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 Lopusky, Diocesan Youth Director at [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto: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.

The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.  
- Marianne Williamson

## A NEW ECCLESIOLOGY FOR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH?

September 23, 2015 by Seraphim Danckaert

*Received from Fr. James Dutko 9/24/2015*

Orthodox Christians often find themselves answering the following question: why is Orthodoxy divided along ethnic lines into different churches?

At least officially, the answer to that question has been quite clear: we are not divided; we are one Church, united in faith and worship, with an administrative structure that organizes itself along local lines, in accordance with the ancient traditions and canon law of the first millennium of Christian history.

In recent years, however, there's been a problem: while the answer given above is true in theory, it's often not implemented in practice.

Starting in the late 19th century, and in increasing numbers after the World Wars, millions of Orthodox Christians began to emigrate from their ancestral homelands to Western Europe, the Americas, and Australia. Instead of organizing churches in these new lands in accordance with the canonical and theological principle that there be only one bishop in each locale, a web of overlapping Orthodox "jurisdictions" developed. As a result, parish churches in some of the larger American cities are under the authority of eight or more different bishops: the Greek parishes under a Greek bishop; the Serbians under a Serb; the Russians under a Russian, etc.

Some were happy with this arrangement, some saw it as a necessary pastoral accommodation to the realities of an unprecedented emigration, and some were dissatisfied for theological and practical reasons. But everyone agreed that the situation was a temporary aberration, a departure from apostolic church order, and at odds with the Orthodox theological tradition.

Starting in the early 60s, as immigrants became more assimilated, a number of prominent bishops and theologians began to speak and write with passion about the need to conform our modern-day polity to our traditional theology. A relatively broad sense of enthusiasm for "Pan-Orthodox" cooperation and unity emerged. Various institutions and organizations appeared, working across jurisdictional lines on local, regional, national, and even international levels. A series of Pan-Orthodox Conferences took place in Rhodes, where bishops and other official representatives of canonical Orthodox churches from around the world met to discuss common concerns.

By 1968, a plan to hold a "Great and Holy Council" had emerged, and, by 1976, an agenda of ten items had crystallized, including the question of how to organize the administration of the Church in the "diaspora." Meetings and preparations for a worldwide council of bishops continued with relative enthusiasm through the late 80s.

Then, in 1989, the Iron Curtain fell and another massive emigration began. In the last 26 years, millions of Eastern Europeans have left their homelands for economic opportunities elsewhere. From Bulgaria alone - a country whose total population is only 7 million - an estimated 3 million people have emigrated to Western Europe and beyond. The emigration of Orthodox Christians from their traditional homelands shows little sign of ending soon. In fact, it's spreading, as a solid minority of the refugees and migrants who are currently leaving the Middle East are Orthodox.

Despite these demographic shifts and an emerging impasse in the attempt to find a common vision for Orthodox polity, plans to hold a "Great and Holy Council" never dissipated entirely. Some progress occurred in the early 90s, and, more recently, a flurry of activity has taken place since 2008.

Within the context of these preparatory deliberations, every Orthodox Church around the world formulated an official position on various topics, including the governance of the Church in places like America and Australia.

In the course of these deliberations, a stark theological division has emerged. Years ago, almost everyone agreed that the status quo of overlapping jurisdictions in the diaspora was a clear violation of Orthodox canon law and a departure from the

apostolic tradition of church order. In recent years, however, some of the largest Orthodox churches have started to argue that the status quo accords with the Orthodox understanding of the Church. A change of this magnitude has required these Orthodox churches to re-think the way in which they explain the governance of the Church and, in some cases, modify theological principles.

The emerging majority opinion is not merely that administrative division in the diaspora allows for the maintenance of distinctive liturgical, theological, and spiritual traditions (and is therefore a pastoral benefit to the Church), but that the division itself is either (1) not actually a departure from apostolic church order and canon law, or (2) only a violation in a technical sense, and not a serious concern, as various present-day sources of authority (e.g. statutes passed by a national church's synod of bishops) are of equal or greater authority to the canons promulgated by the Ecumenical Councils of the first millennium of Christian history.

In February 2011, for example, the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church promulgated an "Appeal to Romanian Dignity," which spoke of a need for "ethnic Orthodox solidarity" and called on all Orthodox people of Romanian heritage throughout the world to submit to the jurisdictional authority of the Romanian Church. The call to do so, the document stressed, accords with the Romanian Church's modern-day statutes, which state that it "is the Church of the Romanian people and encompasses all Orthodox Christians in Romania and the Romanian Orthodox Christians abroad."

The Romanian Synod promulgated this appeal for specific reasons, but more important than its motive is the document's theological reasoning and its conception of the Church. Two aspects of the appeal merit consideration. First, the guiding principle and most important point of reference in its ecclesiological vision is the present-day definition of the Romanian Church found in official synodal documents. Second, according to this line of thinking, the pastoral ministry and authority of an autocephalous Orthodox church is not limited to a specific place. On the contrary, the church exists to serve a particular people throughout the world.

*To Be Continued Next Week*