

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 11.1

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 1, 2015  
22TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
4TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 1 22<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Prophet Joel  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 5, pp 93–95  
*Panachida:* Veronica Czibik – Laurence Czibik & Denise Sovitch  
*Church School*

Wed., Nov. 4 Bishop Abercius, Monk Lot.  
8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Nov. 5 Apostle James, Brother of the Lord.  
8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Nov. 6 Martyr Arethas and companions  
10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun., Nov. 8 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. *Great-martyr Demetrios*  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.  
*Men's Club meets.*

**Confessions:** Before Divine Liturgy

## PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* Edward Hawley. Julia Kovacs. Pat Addio. Margie Pecuch.

*Living:* Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Stephanie Bonk. Owen Bonn. Gloria Bracey. Bob Chalk. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Tammy Hall. Heather Harris. Robert Hawley. Lorraine Kacaba. Mary Kneiss. Anna

Mae Kuklis. John Lange. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Rose Markiewicz. Dolores Naglak. Theresa Niester. 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 Roberts. Kathryn Stocski.

*Eternal Light:* Veronica Czibik – Laurence Czibik & Denise Sovitch

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Wed., Nov. 25:** Every year the local community puts on a Thanksgiving Dinner for those who would otherwise not have one. Last year a couple of our parishioners volunteered to help, and to see what it was all about. This year we open the invitation to all in the parish to help out for this valuable local charity. Volunteers can help in two ways: *Tuesday morning, Nov. 24*, help with the prep work, such as potato peeling, setting up tables, etc. *Wednesday, Nov. 25*: help with dinner – waiting, busing tables, etc. If you would to participate in this event, please talk to Nick or Maryann Polanichka. They have the inside scoop.

**Christmas Gift Tree for U.S. Veterans:** We have done this in past years, donating gifts for our country's vets. We will have more info available shortly. Please plan to help with this worthwhile initiative.

**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!

**ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
Election Results for the Parish Board for 2016**

- ☺ Officers of the Board:
  - ☺ President - Jane Togher
  - ☺ Vice-President - Maryann Polanichka
  - ☺ Secretary - John Shimo
  - ☺ Treasurer - Nick Polanichka
  - ☺ Financial Secretary - Mildred Orzolek
- ☺ Three Trustees:
  - ☺ Mary Brizinski
  - ☺ Walter Orzolek
  - ☺ Edward Bonk, Jr.
- ☺ No auditors were elected or volunteered. If anyone is interested in helping out the parish with this position, please let Jane Togher know.
- ☺ Trustees who were not up for election this year:
  - ☺ Frank Pucher
  - ☺ Carol Pugh
  - ☺ John Brizinski

We thank all those who offer their time and talent to the parish on the Parish Board.

**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. The Banquet will be on Sunday, Nov. 8, at St. George's. We will be listing parish donors in the bulletin.

**Church School** meets today.

**Men's Club** meets next Sunday.

**RENOVATIONS PLANNED!** The Rectory and the Parish Hall both are in need of some serious repairs and

renovations. At the October meeting, the Parish Board voted to accept a bid from S&H Construction Co., to do the following work:

**Church Hall**

Replace *Front Double Doors* and *Basement Door* at the bottom of the stairs. Paint *all exterior doors*. **Total cost: \$1644.**

*On hold* until funds are available: Painting of the *banquet hall* and *hallway*. Refinish the *wood floor*.

**Rectory**

Paint *all interior*. Refinish *wood floors on first floor, stairs and upstairs hall*. Install *paddle fan* in living room. **Total cost: \$4636.**

*On hold* unless funds are donated: replace *all vinyl shutters*, cost \$1128. We have an anonymous donor who will cover half the cost if the other half is also donated by parishioners.

If anyone wishes to donate toward any of these projects, please see Nick Polanichka or send your donation to the rectory.

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS  
CHURCH**

Oct. 25, 2015

- \$418.00 General Collection
- 77.00 7 Day Light
- 1,141.00 Pirohi Sale
- 368.00 Church Dues
- 10.00 Taper Candles
- 8.00 Maintenance & Repairs
- 7.00 Eternal Light
- 118.00 OCF Donations

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\$2,147.00 Total

***Distinguished Diocesan Donors:*** Stephanie Bonk. Ed Bonk, Jr. Carol Pugh. John & Rosemary Hrywnak, Kate Stocoski. Frank Pucher.

**PARISH FUND RAISERS**

**PIROHI SALE!!!** Next Sale is this Friday, November 6 We'll be working Wed, Nov. 4 and Thu., Nov. 5. Both days we will start around 8 AM.

We want to thank all those who came out to work last for the last sale. Again, we are asking that anyone who can spend some time with us making pirohi please consider helping out. Even if you can

only give a couple of hours, it will mean a lot.

**Spaghetti Dinner:** Thanks to the *Men's Club* and *Altar Society* who organized and ran this event. Thanks & God bless also to all who helped and donated for making this a successful event!

### FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**College Student Sunday & Special Collection:** We collected \$118 for the OCF, which will help to support ministry to all Orthodox college students throughout the country. Thank you for your generosity.

#### TRUCK FOR PLOWING NEEDED AT CAMP NAZARETH

Camp Nazareth is in need of a Truck, (used or new) for Plowing!

Winter is coming...again...and that means great Winter Sports, but it also means plowing the Camp ½ mile long driveway. The 1997 Ford F-150 finally gave out and is no longer suitable for driving. The Camp still has the plow and its mounting frame. Now it just needs a used or new truck.

Anyone interested in donating part or all of the cost of a Camp plow truck is asked to contact Fr. Stephen at the Camp at 724-662-4840 or at [campnazareth@acrod.org](mailto:campnazareth@acrod.org).

**Fund-raising Pasta Dinner for Geno Comonie:** GENO COMONIE, a life time resident of Olyphant has been battling Multiple Myeloma, a form of bone cancer. November 7th, 2015 Saturday, the Pasta Dinner at the Eureka Hose Co. Firehouse at 700 block of East Grant Street., 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. Limited amount of tickets will be sold at the door.

**INTERNATIONAL DINNER CLUB,** St. Mary's Church, 320 Mifflin Ave, Scranton, Pa. The Center will host "A Taste of Italy" on Thursday, November 12, 2015 with seatings at 5:30 and 6:30pm. The price

is only \$20.00 per person and reservations can be made by calling 570-343-5151. Closing Date is November 9. The menu will start with a lovely Chicken and Spinach Tortellini and an Appetizer of Ricotta Gnocci in a brown butter and sage cream sauce. The Entrée will be Chicken Scapapiello (whole chicken in bite size pieces with peppers, onions, fried potatoes, broccoli, and sweet sausage in a lemon and light brown sauce. The dessert will be Tiramisu. A Non Alcoholic beverage service will be included but a Cash Bar is available.

**Annual Harvest Dinner.** Sponsored by St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Sunday, November 22, 2015 - 12:30pm . St. Vladimir Parish Center - 428 North Seventh Avenue, Scranton PA. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, hot vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, coffee, tea and beverages. Adults \$13.00; Students 6 to 12 years \$8.00; no charge for children age 5 and under. Advance reservations close Sunday, November 15 - no tickets sold at the door. Take-outs available - must pick up promptly between 11:30am and 12:00 noon. For reservations contact Dorothy Fleck at 570 346-4164.

#### OCF'S WINTER BREAK COLLEGE CONFERENCE!

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.

***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. For more details, please read last week's bulletin, or go on the diocesan website, [acrod.org](http://acrod.org)., or see Fr. Nik.

#### HOLY, GLORIOUS DEMETRIUS THE MYRRH-GUSHER OF THESSALONICA

October 26/November 8

The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior,

intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home,

By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

Win as if you were used to it.  
Lose as if you enjoyed it for a change.  
- Eric Golnik

Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The compiler of his Life, St Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessalonica, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" once founded at this city the first community of believers (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the rage of the emperor knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to his advisor Demetrius and requested a blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Demetrius, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor (October 27) and sent a guard to the prison to kill St Demetrius.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, St Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of St Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of St Demetrius, St Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of St Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher."

Several times, those venerating the holy wonderworker tried to bring his holy relics, or a part of them, to Constantinople. Invariably, St Demetrius made it clear that he would not permit anyone to remove even a portion of his relics.

St Demetrius is regarded as a protector of the young, and is also invoked by those struggling with lustful temptations.