

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 11.3

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 15, 2015
24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 15 24th Sunday after Pentecost. 6th Sunday of Luke. Martyrs Akyndinos et al.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 7, pp 99–101
Panachida: Julia Kovacs – 40 Day Memorial.
Parish Board meets.
Church School moved to next week

Wed., Nov. 18 Martyrs Galaction & Episteme.
8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Nov. 19 Archbishop Paul the Confessor.
8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Nov. 20 33 Martyrs of Melitene
10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun., Nov. 22 25rd Sunday after Pentecost. 7th Sunday of Luke. Metropolitan Nectarios the Wonderworker of Aegina.
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 8, pp 102–104
Church School meets
Adult Enrichment 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: Jill Altier by the Bonk family.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Thanksgiving Community Program: Information on the many opportunities to participate in this worthwhile Community event was posted in last week's bulletin. You will also find a copy of the letter

on the hall bulletin board. If you would like more information, please see Maryann Polanichka. Also, if any parishioner is interested in volunteering for the Thanksgiving preparations, you can see Maryann for more information as well as a St. Nicholas Parish apron to take with you to work in.

Once again, we have the opportunity to do something meaningful for our community Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Don't pass this chance up!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH	
Nov. 8, 2015	
\$419.00	General Collection
5.00	1st Sunday
78.00	7 Day Light
1182.00	Pirohi Sale
368.00	Church Dues
10.00	Taper Candles
1000.00	Renovations Donation
14.00	Eternal Light

\$3,076.00	Total

Christmas Gift Tree for U.S. Veterans: As in past years, our parish has volunteered to support the Gino Merli Veterans Center Veterans with Christmas gifts for the vets. The Veteran's Gift Tree is now up and available in the hall. Parishioners can select a veteran star, with a name and wish list from the tree. The Center requested that the gifts be wrapped with the Veteran's Star attached to the wrapping.

Please return the gifts to the Church Hall by Sunday, December 13th. Remembering our veterans during the Christmas season is a way of thanking them for their service to our country.

Thank you for your support of our veterans.

Breadbasket of NEPA: The collection bins are in the hall and filling 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

Church School meets next Sunday instead of today..

Parish Board meets today.

Adult Enrichment meets next Sunday in the Hall

Meeting Room. Again, all are welcome to participate. I hope for another lively discussion!

PARISH FUND RAISERS

PIROHI SALE!!! Next Sale is Friday, November 20 We'll be working Wed, Nov. 18 and Thu., Nov. 19. Both days we will start around 8 AM.

Spaghetti Dinner news: Profit on the dinner was \$613. Thanks again to all who helped make it successful!

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 <i>Front Double Doors</i> and <i>Basement Door</i> at the bottom of the stairs. Paint <i>all exterior doors</i> . Total cost: \$1644. <i>On hold</i> until funds are available: Painting of the <i>banquet hall</i> and <i>hallway</i> . Refinish the <i>wood floor</i> .
Rectory
Paint <i>all interior</i> . Refinish <i>wood floors on first floor, stairs and upstairs hall</i> . Install <i>paddle fan</i> in living room. Total cost: \$4636. <i>On hold</i> unless funds are donated: replace <i>all vinyl shutters</i> , 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.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

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!

DECEMBER 28–31

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 www.ocf.net. For more details, go on the diocesan website, acrod.org., or see Fr. Nik.

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.

NEWS FROM BISHOP GREGORY ABOUT PEACE AND THE CHRISTMAS FAST

Christmas Fast on the Julian Calendar does not begin until Sunday, Nov. 29. However, Bishop Gregory is putting out a special appeal for us all to pray for Peace throughout the Fast. In conjunction with this, he is issuing a "Peace Challenge" for prayer. Although the Fast here is two week away, I am printing the Bishop's Christmas Fast Letter, and some other information about this ongoing effort. There is no reason that we cannot begin now instead of waiting for the exact day of the beginning of Filipovka. Please read on:

Dateline Thursday, 11/12/15:

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

Bishop Gregory has asked that the Archpastoral Letter For The Nativity Fast be read from the pulpit during announcements on the First Sunday of the Nativity Fast (Nov 15 - New Calendar, Nov 29 - Old Calendar). [Note: the full text of the letter can be found at the end of the bulletin today.]

In the Archpastoral Letter, His Grace asks that the clergy and the faithful of the Diocese intensify their prayers for peace during this Fasting Season. To this end, he has instructed that during the Nativity Fast a special petition be added to the Litany of Fervent Supplication at each Divine Liturgy. He also asks that a special prayer be included in our evening prayer rule.

Copies of the prayer are being made available to all parishioners by request of His Grace.

While this challenge is made to all of the faithful of the Diocese, Bishop Gregory especially encourages our youth and young adults to participate

Additional information will be posted on Facebook and at a special web page:

<http://www.acrod.org/consecration/7831/>.

Dateline Saturday, 11/14/15, from the Diocesan Chancery:

We wanted you to be aware that Bishop Gregory filmed a video message yesterday in regards to the prayer challenge and it is posted on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSHiAQV7Gh8>

A Facebook "event" has also been created for the Prayer Challenge:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/111943065837412/>

His Grace is using social media to get the word out in an effort to reach especially our youth and young adults. Our parish young people (and their parents) are especially encouraged to join the Facebook event, watch the YouTube video, and respond favorably to the invitation. We hope they will also invite and encourage their friends to participate.

With yesterday's terrible terrorist attacks in Paris, we can see how vitally important that we step up our efforts for peace. Please be a part of this effort.



Office of the Bishop
312 Garfield St.
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NATIVITY FAST 2015

Protocol N. 19/2015

Glory Be To Jesus Christ!

My beloved Faithful Clergy and Laity of our God-Protected Diocese:

It is hard to believe that this month marks the third anniversary of my Consecration and Enthronement as your Bishop. I have enjoyed travelling throughout the Diocese and visiting your parishes and getting to know you. I have been encouraged that while the majority of our Diocesan parishes are small in size, the clergy and faithful who labor in the Vineyard of the Lord are doing much to further the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

As you have heard me preach, I am deeply concerned about the state of affairs in the world. There is strife and conflict in every corner of the globe, including our own country, our local communities and even our families. I am also deeply saddened and troubled by the moral decline in society that is causing chaos and confusion for our youth and young adults. This lack of peace brings unrest to our hearts, and instability in the world. It is, as I have shared with you, the direct result of an increase of selfishness and hatred and the decrease of humility and love. It has become a vicious cycle that can only be broken by a radical *metanoia* or change of mind and heart on the part of all of the inhabitants of the earth.

As we enter into the Season of the Nativity Fast, I ask you, the good faithful and clergy of the Diocese, to join me on a journey of peace and repentance which will begin in our hearts and end at the manger in Bethlehem. During this time, let us increase our efforts in church attendance, in prayer, in fasting, in scriptural reading, in almsgiving, in repentance and confession, and in receiving the Holy Eucharist.

This year, to further focus our journey of peace and love this Nativity season, I am offering a challenge to all of the clergy and faithful and especially the youth and young adults of the Diocese. Let us not just talk about making the world a more peaceful place, but let us actually do something about it. And **the challenge** is:

To offer a special prayer for peace during evening prayers. During the Litany of Fervent Supplication at each Divine Liturgy a special petition is also to be included. The text of these prayers will be provided to the clergy for distribution. Each household should have sufficient copies so that each young person that can read has one by their bed to use nightly and those who are too young to read may say this prayer together with their parents before they go to

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

bed. Of course all adults should join the challenge as well so that all together our prayers will reach our Lord's ears.

To assist with this challenge, a special web page has been created on the Diocesan Website, *Praying For Peace*, which contains downloadable texts of the special prayers. Other postings will be made on various social media outlets to encourage maximal exposure and participation.

With all of us united in prayer and laboring for peace this Nativity Fasting Season, I am convinced that we will help, even if only in a small way, to make our lives and that of the world more peaceful.

Praying that this Nativity Fasting Season is a spiritually uplifting experience for all of us, I remain,

Working in His Vineyard with much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bishop Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

This Archpastoral Letter is to be read in all parishes of the Diocese from the pulpit on the first Sunday of Advent during the reading of the parish announcements.

Prayer For Peace – Evening Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, our God, You said to Your disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” We come before You in humility and ask that Your peace which surpasses all understanding will descend upon all people around the world, especially those currently in conflict and at war. Increase understanding and forgiveness between nations. Awaken the longing for a peaceful life in all those who are filled with hatred for their neighbor. Extinguish every dispute and banish all temptations to disagreement. Grant wisdom to civil authorities. Free those held captive, protect those in danger, and comfort those who are suffering and displaced. Implant in all of us reverence for You, and confirm us in love for one another. Make us worthy to celebrate the Feast of Your Holy Nativity and to join with the angels in chanting: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.” For You are the King of Peace and the Savior of our souls and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your most-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Nativity Fast Prayer Challenge



Praying For Peace