

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 12.2

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510

Fr. Nicholas Ferencz, Ph.D., Pastor
Rectory: 621 Vine St., Scranton, PA 18510
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

DECEMBER 13, 2015

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. 10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE
HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED

PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Dec. 13 28th Sunday after Pentecost. 10th
Sunday of Luke. Apostle Andrew the
First-Called.
8:45–9:15 AM Confessions
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets
*Parish Board Meets (Schedule Change due
to St. Nicholas Banquet)*

Wed., Dec. 16 Prophet Zephaniah
8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Dec. 17 Great-martyr Barbara. Confessor John
of Damascus.
8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Dec. 18 Monk Sabbas the Consecrated
10 AM – 4 PM *PIROHI SALE & CHRISTMAS BAKE
SALE!*

SAT., DEC. 19 HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS THE
WONDER-WORKER.
Confessions before Liturgy.
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

SUN., DEC. 20 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. 11th
SUNDAY OF LUKE. HOLY BISHOP
AMBROSE OF MILAN.

9:15 – 9:45 AM CONFESSIONS
10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY – TONE 4, PP 90–92
NOON – ST. NICHOLAS BANQUET

FEASTING . . .

OUR HOLY FATHER NICHOLAS THE WONDER-WORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCEA, patron of our parish,
this Sat., Dec. 19. Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

. . . AND FASTING

Filipovka (Philip's Fast, or Christmas Lent)
continues until Christmas Eve, Dec. 24/Jan. 6.

- The **Traditional Fast** requires fasting from meat, eggs, dairy products, fish, oil, and wine. Fish, wine and oil are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays, and oil and wine are allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The fasting rules permit fish, and/or wine and oil on certain feast days that occur during the course of the fast: Apostle Andrew (Nov. 30/Dec. 13), Great-martyr Barbara (Dec. 4/17), St. Nicholas (Dec. 6/19), St. Spiridon and St. Herman (Dec. 12/25), St. Ignatius (Dec. 20/Jan. 2), etc. There is no fast on the Feast of the

Entrance (Nov. 21/Dec. 4). The Nativity Fast is not as severe as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast.

- As always, persons who are ill, the very young or elderly, and pregnant and nursing mothers are exempt from fasting. Each individual is expected to confer with their confessor regarding any exemptions from the fasting rules, but should never place themselves in physical danger.
- The MINIMUM Diocesan Rule is no meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. All are encouraged and expected to do more than the minimum.
- *CHRISTMAS EVE* is a Day of *Fasting from Meat and Dairy* in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord – this is why it is called the “Paramony,” a word which means “Preparation. On this day no solid food should be eaten until the first star is seen in the evening sky. That’s why the *Vilija* or *Holy Supper* traditionally begins when the first star is seen.
- No dispensation has been granted from fasting on Dec. 24, 25, 31, or Jan. 1 (civil calendar).

Confessions: All are reminded that fasting from food goes hand-in-hand with fasting from sin. This is why the Church encourages us to receive the Holy Mystery of Confession is given during the Christmas Fast period. During the Christmas Fast, Confessions are scheduled for Sunday morning before Divine Liturgy. Please see Calendar for times.

Almsgiving: Also, giving to the poor and needy is the flip side of fasting. The parish offers opportunities to fulfill this duty. See below.

PEOPLE STUFF

Please remember in your prayers:

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. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel.

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

Assisted Living Homes: Julie Roberts. Marion Sosnowski. Kathryn Stocoski.

PARISH STUFF

Parish Board – Schedule change! The Board will meet today because of the St. Nicholas Celebration next Sunday.

Sue Danchak Collection: Last Sunday we collected \$736 to help Sue out during this difficult time. Thank you for your generosity!

ST. NICHOLAS DAY BANQUET

All are invited to join in honoring St. Nicholas, the Patron of our Church, at our annual St. Nicholas Parish Banquet on Sunday, December 20th.

The day’s events:

- Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM
- St. Nicholas will come to the hall!
- 12:00 Noon Dinner is Served!
- The buffet-style dinner will include
 - Roast Beef, mashed potatoes & pan gravy.
 - Chicken strips
 - Penne Pasta with marinara sauce & side of meat balls
 - Coffee, tea, etc.
 - Dessert
- \$12/adult, children under 12 are free.
- RSVP by *today*, so that we can properly prepare. You can :
 - Call the Hall phone (570-344-1522) and leave a message,
 - Tell Jane Togher (570-842-3311, jctogher@gmail.com),

Please put this on your calendar!

Stewardship Workshop Saturday, January 16. Two Sobors ago, the diocese implemented a plan to

develop and encourage a Stewardship Program on both the Diocesan level and the Parish level. Over the past few years, members of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee have been invited to parishes to explain and discuss what stewardship is, what it means, and what it means (hopefully) to you.

Instead of each of the parishes of the Pocono Deanery setting up their own workshop date, one Stewardship Workshop has been scheduled for all to attend, to be held at St. George's Orthodox Church (Taylor, PA) on January 16, 2016. Attendance is free, and the workshop is open to all clergy and parishioners in the Pocono Deanery. (Stewardship coordinators are especially encouraged to attend.) The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m., and a lunch will be provided.

The workshop will give attendees a greater understanding of what Stewardship means for Orthodoxy, and ways that it can be incorporated into our churches. Attendees are asked to RSVP by December 26th. Please contact Michael Shimko by phone (570-430-6749) or by e-mail at michael.shimko@me.com.

All members of the parish are encouraged to attend (free lunch!). This is an issue that affects all Orthodox Christians. Hopefully, everyone in the parish will understand and make their participation in the life of parish one which comes out of this Stewardship model.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND HIS CHURCH

Dec. 6, 2015

694.00	General Collection
736.00	Special Donations -Sue Danchak
131.00	1st Sunday
112.00	7 Day Light
1829.00	Pirohi Sale
86.00	Holy Days
15.00	Taper Candles
37.00	Maintenance & Repairs
92.00	Church Dues
35.00	Christmas Flowers
3767.00	Total

Renovation Fund to date: \$1000.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Gift Tree for U.S. Veterans: *to all who picked up a Gift Star for the Veterans:* Gifts are due in the Church Hall by *today!*

Breadbasket of NEPA: 7 boxes of food were delivered to The Breadbasket of Northeastern PA this past Wednesday. When the volunteers saw the boxes, they said that "it is a day of sunshine" when they receive the much needed food from the many "angels" of St. Nicholas Church, and thanked us for helping to provide the families with nourishment.

I wonder when the last time was that our parishioners were called "angels." God bless you all for your generosity!

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.

PARISH FUND RAISERS

LAST PIROHI SALE FOR THE SEASON, FRI., DEC. 18.

Wed., Dec. 16 8:00 AM Pirohi Prep

Thu., Dec. 17 8:00 AM Pirohi Making

Fri., Dec. 18 10 AM – 4 PM Pirohi Pickup

• ***All pirohi is sold out for the Christmas season!***

KOLAČI SALE! The Men's Club is selling Nut Rolls and Poppyseed Rolls for \$8.00 each. To order, call the hall number and leave a message, or talk to Bill Thomas or Nick Polanichka. *Order Pick-up Date:* During the Bake Sale on December 18, 10 AM–4 PM.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE! *Friday, Dec. 18, 10 AM – 4 PM.* As in the past few years, we will be holding a Bake Sale in conjunction with the last Pirohi Sale of the Season. We are asking all our parishioners to donate items for the Sale. They don't have to be Cookies; all donations accepted. A Christmas-y theme would be nice but not necessary.

Please contact Carol Pugh to let her know what you are planning on bringing: 570-489-2321 or toots638@comcast.net.

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church Is Having a "Cookie Walk Sale". All cookies are homemade and will include anise, wedding, pepper, thumbprint, ricotta, chocolate chips, peanut butter kisses, nut, rugelach, and linzer cookies. The sale will be on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 320 Vine St. Old Forge, Pa. from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Fill the box with cookies you like and pay \$8.00 per pound.

Diocesan Donation Program with Amazon! As Christmas nears and our thoughts turn to gift giving for our loved ones, you also have an opportunity to give to the Diocese! Amazon.com offers a program whereby shoppers can use a special web address so that with every purchase made a donation is given to the diocese. This is a simple way to integrate stewardship into your holiday purchases and to proudly declare you know "the reason for the season" by remembering the diocese while you shop for your friends and family.

How do I participate? It's easy. Just go to the Diocesan website (<http://www.acrod.org>) and click on the "AmazonSmile" link on the left of the page. Please note that Amazon lists us as the "American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese of the USA."

Happy shopping and please tell your friends!

FR. THOMAS HOPKO'S "55 MAXIMS" - ON LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE

Continued from last week

31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and attentive, fully present where you are.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. Speak simply, clearly, firmly, directly.
37. Flee imagination, fantasy, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, grumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't seek or expect pity or praise.
41. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
42. Don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God, not people.
46. Accept criticism gracefully and test it carefully.
47. Give advice only when asked or when it is your duty.
48. Do nothing for people that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, and never on darkness, temptation and sin.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your faults serenely, under God's mercy.
54. When you fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear or shame.

APOSTLE ANDREW, THE HOLY AND ALL-PRAISED FIRST-CALLED

November 30

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ (John 1:35-42). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, St Andrew became his closest disciple. St John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian, declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, St Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepr he climbed to the place where the city of Kiev now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kiev. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross. Having prayed, he went up even further along the Dniepr and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novgorod was built. From here the apostle went through the land of the Varangians towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Russian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy.

The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the illustrious citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness; he healed Maximilla, wife of the governor of Patra, and his brother Stratokles. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra with the true Faith.

Few pagans remained at Patra, but among them was the prefect of the city, Aegeatos. The Apostle Andrew repeatedly turned to him with the words of the Gospel. But even the miracles of the Apostle did not convince Aegeatos. The holy Apostle with love and humility appealed to his soul, striving to reveal to him the Christian mystery of life eternal, through the wonderworking power of the Holy Cross of the Lord. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo St Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross.

St Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take St Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

A few centuries later, under the emperor Constantine the Great, the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew were solemnly transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles beside the relics of the holy Evangelist Luke and St Paul's disciple St Timothy.

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. 10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE
HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED
November 30/December 13, 2015

Tropar of the Resurrection - Tone 3 [*Music p. 87*]

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad! * For the Lord has shown strength with his arm, * trampling down death by death, He has become the First-born of the dead. * He has delivered us from the depths of the realm of death, * and has given great mercy to our souls.

Troparion of Andrew — Tone 4

Andrew, first-called of the Apostles * and brother of the foremost disciple, * entreat the Master of all * to grant peace to the world * and to our souls great mercy.

Kondak of the Resurrection - Tone 3 [*Music p. 87*]

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Today You arose from the grave, O Merciful One, * and lifted us from the gates of death. * Adam exalts and Eve rejoices. * They, together with the prophets and patriarchs, * continually proclaim the Divine Authority of your Power.

Kontakion of Andrew — Tone 2

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Let us praise Andrew, the herald of God, * the namesake of courage, * the first-called of the Savior's disciples * and the brother of Peter. * As he once called to his brother, he now cries out to us: * "Come, for we have found the One whom the world desires!"

Prokimen of the Resurrection - Tone 3 [*Music p. 89*]

Sing to our God, sing, sing! * Sing praises to our King, * sing praises to our King.

Reader: Clap your hands all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Do not repeat above Prokimen

Prokimen of Andrew – Tone 8 (Ps. 19:5,2)

Through all the world their voice resounds, their message reaches to the ends of the earth.

Reader: The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of His hands.

Epistles:

For Sunday: Colossians 1:12–18.

For Andrew: 1 Corinthians 4:9–16

Alleluia of the Resurrection and of Andrew – Tone 3

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: In You, O Lord, do I seek refuge; let me never be put to shame.

Reader: Be a rock of refuge for me and a strong fortress to save me.

Reader: The heavens proclaim your wonders, O Lord, the assembly of your holy ones proclaims your truth.

Reader: God is to be extolled in the council of the holy ones.

Gospels:

For Sunday: Luke 13:10–17

For Andrew: John 1:35–51

Communion Hymns

For Sunday: "Praise the Lord"

For Andrew: (Ps. 19,5): Through all the world their voice resounds, their message reaches to the ends of the earth. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!