

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 5 No. 1.5

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

JANUARY 31, 2016

35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. 17TH SUNDAY OF LUKE.

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 31 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Athanasius & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 2, pp 84–86  
Panachida: Eleanor Sovitch by Denise Sovitch and Larry Czibik.  
*Church School - resch. from last week.*

Wed., Feb. 3 Monk Maximos the Confessor. Virgin-martyr Agnes of Rome.  
8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Feb. 4 Apostle Timothy.  
8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Feb. 5 Martyred Bishop Clement of Ancyra.  
10 AM – 3 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun., Feb. 7 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Bishop Gregory of Nazianzus, called the Theologian.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.  
Panachida: George Senich – 40 day comm.  
*Church School meets*

Fri., Feb. 12 *Holy Bishops Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom.*  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Panachida: Mary Koscho

Sun., Feb. 14 **Sunday of Zacchaeus.** *Pre-festive of the Feast of the Encounter.* Martyr Tryphon. Nun Brigid of Kildare.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets.  
Panachida: George Ferencz  
*Men's Club regular monthly meeting.*  
*Altar Society meets.*  
*Please note: I missed putting in the Panachida celebrated last week for John Czibik from Laurence Czibik & Denise Sovitch.*

**Confessions** are available before Divine Liturgy.

## FEASTING...

*Upcoming Feastdays:*

**Three Holy Bishops Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom** – Feb. 12 (Jan. 30). Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

**Encounter of Our Lord Jesus Christ with Simeon and Anna in the Temple** – Feb. 15 (Feb. 2). Divine Liturgy at 9 AM. Candles are blessed on this day.

## ...AND FASTING

**No Fasting** – the week of the Publican and the Pharisee, Feb. 21 – Feb. 27.

**Great Lent** begins Monday, March 14. We have time, so don't panic yet. *However*, the Pre-Lenten cycle does begin Feb. 14 with the *Sunday of Zacchaeus*.

## PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* George Senich.

*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. Madelyn Hodanich. Johnny Huniyack. Lorraine Kacaba. Anna Mae Kuklis. John Lange. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Rose Markiewicz. 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. Anna Senich.

*Assisted Living Homes:* Julie Roberts. Marion Sosnowski. Kathryn Stocoski. Dolores Naglak. Mary Kneiss.

**From Sonya & Steve Fueshko:** We would like to sincerely thank all of you who have remembered Sonya with your prayers, thoughts, cards, phone calls and well-wishes during her recent surgery and her ongoing recovery. Your thoughtfulness means more to us than we can express. Thanks and God bless!

## COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Breadbasket of NEPA:** We are starting up again. Donation boxes are in the hall.

*Some folks have been asking for clarification about who is receiving our food donations, so. . .*

*Breadbasket of NEPA* is the overall organization which oversees most of the food distribution in the greater Scranton-Wilkes Barre area. We are giving our donations to the local Food Pantry, one of a number of Pantries overseen by *Breadbasket*. Those donations are kept by the Pantry and serve the broad neighborhood around the Church (the Pantry is only a couple of blocks away).

All money gifts, whether individual or group – like when the church takes up a collection – go to the central *Breadbasket* organization to be distributed and used as the headquarters sees fit.

I hope this helps with understanding where our donations are going. I would just reiterate that all of our donations to *Breadbasket* are used right here in the area.

## PARISH FUND RAISERS

**Pirohi Sales:** *Thanks* to all who helped out this past week. Next sale is Friday, Feb. 5, with the usual workdays of Wednesday and Thursday.

**Easter Kolači Sale!** The Men's Club is now taking orders for their famous Kolači. Rolls are only \$8.00 each. Available flavors: Nut, Poppyseed, Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry Coconut. *Pick-up Date:* Friday, March 18, 10 AM to 3 PM. To order, call 570-344-1522 and leave a message with your order. Order soon!!!

## PARISH STUFF

**Group Event Update:** *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* outing has been canceled. Perhaps another time, another place. If you have an idea for a parish group event, please pass it along to the Men's Club – they are always looking for something to do.

**House Blessings:** This week I will be blessing houses on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I will be calling to set up times. If I do not call, I am not coming.

*You may want to* get some of the New Jordan Water so that you are ready to have your house blessed when I come. Just saying.

**Altar Society** will meet on Sunday, February 14, to talk about upcoming Fund Raisers.

**Church School** rescheduled for today. Class is still also scheduled for next Sunday, Feb. 7.

## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH

Jan 24, 2016

\$285.00 General Collection  
1,140.00 Pirohi  
67.00 7 Day Light  
93.00 Church Dues  
13.00 Holy Days  
17.00 Taper Candles

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\$1,615.00 Total

*Renovation Donations to date:* \$1000.

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**Pirohi, Haluski, Clam Chowder Sale St. John's Auxiliary**, 310 Broadway Ave. Scranton will be held on Feb. 10th. Orders will be taken until Jan. 16 or while manageable. Pick up date is Feb. 10th between 10 and 2pm. Prices: Pirohi \$8.00 dozen; Haluski \$7.00 qt.; Clam Chowder \$8.00 qt. Please call 570-343-8820.

**International Dinner is "France"** St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church - 310 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. is proud to announce that the International Dinner for February is "France." Dinner is on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Seatings will be at 5:30 or 6:30pm. Reservations can be made at 570-343-5151 by February 9. The menu will start with an Appetizer of Frisee salad tossed in a warm mustard seed vinaigrette an bacon lardons. The Entree will be Beef Bourguignon served with a white bean puree. The dessert is Homemade Beignets. Coffee, Tea, Water is Included and a Cash Bar is available. The price is only \$20.00 per person.

**Lenten Pizza and Soup Sale:** St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 N. Main St. Pittston, Pa. 18640 is having a "PIZZA & SOUP SALE" for Lent. We will offer Old Forge Style Baked (\$12) or Unbaked (\$10). Add \$1 extra for onions. Each week we will offer a soup of the week at \$8.00 per qt. Pre-order by Tues. Feb. 10 for Ash Wednesday or by Thursday at 570-905-7387 - Pick up will be from 4-7pm on Ash Wednesday and the following Fridays during Lent. Soup of the week is Homemade (Manhattan) Clam Chowder. All proceeds will benefit the Church.

**TRIP TO UKRAINE!** St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Parish of Scranton is sponsoring a trip to Ukraine from September 8 to 20, 2016. The 13 day itinerary will include Kyiv, Lviv, Yaremche in the heart of the Carpathian Mountains, Ivano Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Podilsky, Zarvanytsia [the Lourdes of Western Ukraine] and Ternopil. Included are visits to centuries old sacred sites such as the Pecherska Lavra/Monastery of the Caves, Sunday Divine Liturgy at the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv and St. George Ukrainian Greek Catholic Cathedral in Lviv, the Maidan Memorial, Dnister riverboat cruise, Lviv Opera House, etc.

Tour land cost twin per person is \$2,290. Air fare is estimated to be approximately \$990.

For full details contact Jean Stasyszyn Pedley at

570 698-6838 or Scope Travel at 201 463-4656.

**Received on Friday, Jan. 29:**

**Saint Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
540 North Main Avenue, Scranton, PA 18504**

January 8, 2016

To The Parish Priest and his Parishioners,

We would like to invite you to an event honoring Father Nestor Kowal for his many years of service to St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church and his 50 years as a priest as he will be leaving us in the near future.

There will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM at St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

The dinner will follow at 1:00 PM at St. George's Church Hall, 743 South Keyser Avenue, Taylor, PA.

The cost will be \$55.00 per person, which includes your dinner and a cash bar, by paid reservation only.

All are welcome to attend.

For further information please contact St. Michael's at 570-961-1795.

Thanking you in advance.

May God Bless You Always.

Sincerely,

Sharon Monahan

Financial Secretary

Ed Popil, President

The Parish Board & Trustees

*Note: I also received a reservation form which is in the office and we can print up if you would like to make a reservation.*

TALK, TALK, TALK

TROUBLE, TROUBLE, TROUBLE

By Very Rev. Stephen Rogers (*The Word Magazine*, Oct. 2001)

Never before in the history of humanity have there been so many opportunities to talk. Talk shows are all the rage. Chat rooms on the internet consume hours

of people's time. Cell phones, beepers, faxes, community-access television, desk-top publishing, call-in radio...there's no question about it, we have an opinion and we want to be heard.

Sure, we talk to work out our problems. Oftentimes, however, our talk creates more problems than it solves. In many situations a little silence would go a long way. Too much talking usually leads to trouble and sometimes to downright danger.

St. James, the brother of our Lord and first bishop of Jerusalem, certainly understood the potential destructive power of the tongue. In his epistle, St. James powerfully addresses the danger of unbridled speech. "Look also at the ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so, the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, or reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not be so" (James 3:4-10).

Powerful words from a man who understood the power of words. James understood our words are a reflection of who we really are. Unfortunately, what is most often revealed is that we are ruled by our pride. Just as that tiny rudder sets the ship on its course, our tongue steers us toward that which we desire most—that our own willfulness and pride be imposed on the people and circumstances around us. It is our pride that causes us to think we can control and therefore we lose control. St. John of the Ladder says: "Talkativeness is the throne of pride on which it loves to preen itself and show off." More often than not, when we lose control of our tongues, we will ultimately lose control of our whole selves. "If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2). How much emotional and spiritual harm (and in some cases even physical harm) we could save ourselves from if we learned to control our tongue.

The truth is, he or she who makes no effort to control the tongue has lost sight of his or her relationship with God. "If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless" (James 1:26). Given the power of the tongue to damage and destroy, is it any wonder that at every Vespers service we chant, "Set a watch O Lord before my mouth and a protecting door about my lips" (Psalm 140).

Hearing St. James' warnings about the tongue, let us remember he is addressing the Church. In the very place we need to most control our tongue, we are most prone to argue, gossip and judge. St. James says it best: "My brethren, these things ought not be so."

## "HUMBLEMINDEDNESS"

by Elder Ephraim

"Always in your prayer may you seek humblemindedness foremost, that God may give you, and you persist in, this request of yours, for without true humblemindedness nothing good or meritorious is achieved.

Just as the Apostle Paul, my child, has also said: "What do you have that you have not received? And if you have received it, why do you boast as though you had not received it?" (1 Cor. 4:7).; "Everyone who is arrogant is an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 16:5). For this reason, my child, struggle against this unhappy passion, being humbleminded and considering what great humility the Lord of glory showed in becoming man and humbling Himself before abuse and slander, even up to the Cross. But also all the holy people of God showed most excellent humility, in order to both become holy and to attest to us that there is no other way to be saved than this.

Whatever gives you humility, espouse that. Do so even if you are pained and feel like you are dying. The end of the pain will be blessing from God and progress toward the most excellent of virtues, humility.

I pray that our God, Jesus, will give you this within your soul indelibly."