

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 5 No. 2.2

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 14, 2016

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

PRE-FESTIVE OF THE FEAST OF THE ENCOUNTER

## PARISH CALENDAR

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.*

MON., FEB. 15 THE ENCOUNTER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH SIMEON & ANNA IN THE TEMPLE  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles.

Wed., Feb. 17 Monk Isidore  
8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Feb. 18 Martyr Agatha.  
8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Feb. 19 Virgin-martyrs Dorothy, Christina & Kallista  
10 AM – 3 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun. Feb. 21 **Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee.** Post-festive of Encounter. Great-martyr Theodore Stratelates.  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets  
*Parish Board meets*

**Confessions** are available before Divine Liturgy.

## FEASTING...

**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. The Pre-Lenten cycle begins today with the *Sunday of Zacchaeus*.

## 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. 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.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Breadbasket of NEPA:** Donation boxes are in the hall.

### PARISH FUND RAISERS

**Pirohi Sales:** *Thanks* to all who helped out this past week. Next sale is this Friday, Feb. 19, with the usual workdays of Wednesday and Thursday. See Parish Calendar.

**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!!!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH	
Feb. 7, 2016	
\$ 571.00	General Collection
\$ 107.00	1st Sunday
\$ 85.00	7 Day Light
\$1307.00	Pirohi
\$ 16.00	Holy Days
\$ 186.00	Church Dues
\$ 9.00	Taper Candles
\$ 1.00	Donation Calendars
\$ 10.00	Christmas
<b>\$2292.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>
<i>Renovation Donations to date: \$1000.</i>	

### PARISH STUFF

**House Blessings:** This week I will be finishing up house blessings. If I overlooked you for some reason (it's possible), and you would like to have your home blessed, please contact me (call or email) and we can set up a time for me to come out.

**Altar Society** will meet on today, to talk about upcoming Fund Raisers.

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

**Parish Board** meets next Sunday, February 21.

**Church School** will be February 28.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE	
Feb. 28 (Note change)	Apr. 10
Mar. 13	Apr. 24 - Palm Sunday, Last Class
Mar. 27	

### FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**Orthodox Speaking Series:** presenting *Metropolitan Kallistos Ware* who will be giving a lecture on "The Unchanging Gospel in an Ever-Changing Culture." **Streaming Live on Saturday, March 5, 2016,** from North Park University of Chicago, IL.

The schedule for this 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Event:

10 AM to Noon

Lunch

1 PM to 3 PM

There will be 3 respondents to the lecture:

Father John Behr, Dean, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary

Dr. Hauna Ondrey, North Park University

Dr. Marcus Pleasted, Marquette University

Moderator is Professor Nassif, Professor of Biblical Studies North Park University (Main planner for event)

Please note that this event will be "live streamed" for all who are not able to come, but wish to see the event live, and to *possibly be part of the audience during the Q/A session* with Metropolitan Kallistos.

Deacon Peter Sodini of St Michael's Church in Niles, IL is a member of the steering committee at North Park University of Chicago, IL for the Orthodox Speaking Series which is funded by the Kulis Foundation.

All are encouraged to tune in. Further information can be found here: <http://www.northpark.edu/orthodox>.

Please feel free to contact Fr. Deacon Peter directly (pesodini@msn.com).

**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.

**Fr. Nestor Kowal's 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination  
Anniversary**

**Saturday, February 27**

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

All are invited to attend

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

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.

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

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

**Ham Bingo** The parishioners of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church are sponsoring their annual Ham Bingo on March 13, 2016 at 1 p.m. The event will be held in the church hall at 320 Vine St, Old Forge PA.

Theme baskets, door prizes, and various bingo specials will be available throughout the afternoon.

The kitchen opens at 11am. A variety of food items and refreshments will be available. The church will also sponsor a bake sale during the bingo.

Admission is \$3.00

**Meatless Meal for Lent:** *A Baked Haddock Fish Dinner* at SS. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA., on Friday, March 18, 2016 being held at the Regal Room (216 Lackawanna Ave.) in Olyphant, PA from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., "sit down or take out" Call 580-383-9487 for reservations, Pre-sold dinners are \$13.00 per ticket. Web site: stcyrils.weconnect.com Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor (570-489-2271)

**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.

**EASTERN REGION  
DIOCESAN LENTEN  
RETREAT  
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016**

**9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

**AT**

**THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT VALLEY  
FORGE**

**1485 VALLEY FORGE ROAD  
PHOENIXVILLE, PA**

**COST TO ATTEND (INCLUDES LUNCH):**

**\$20.00 ADULTS / TEENS**

**\$7.00 (AGES 6 TO 12)**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**

**APRIL 2, 2016**

**CONTACT**

**TRACEY BILANIN**

**tbilanin@yahoo.com**

**(484) 624-4664**

**SPONSORED BY THE  
NATIONAL A.C.R.Y**

*Sign Up Sheet is in the hall. Please sign up and  
we will send in one form for everyone.*

*All are encouraged to attend.*

**SAINT BRIGID**

**February 1/14**

*From the Appletree Press title: Celtic Saints*

Although Brigid is probably the best known Irish saint after Patrick, her life cannot be documented with much certainty. Cogitosus's *Life of Brigid* was written not much more than a century after her death, but he was mainly concerned with recounting her many miracles. She may have been born in Co.

Kildare, c. 457, but local tradition suggests Faughart, Co. Louth. Her parents, Dubtach and Brocseach, may both have belonged to noble families, though one account suggests that Brigid's mother was a slave in Dubtach's household. It is generally accepted that Brocseach was a Christian. Dubtach may also have been one, or perhaps converted from paganism in later life. Brigid was noted for her generosity to the poor, and as a child once gave away her mother's whole store of butter. Fortunately her prayers were answered, and the store of butter was miraculously renewed.

Her father may well have welcomed her decision to take the veil, once she had rejected his choice of a husband for her. With seven other young women robed in white, she took her vows before Saint Mel, the abbot and bishop of Longford, and it is said that he mistakenly consecrated her a bishop. When seeking land for her community, she asked the King of Leinster only for as much as her cloak would cover. The cloak miraculously spread over the whole of the Curragh, an area of grassland famous then and now for horse racing.

In Ireland Christianity did not supplant paganism so much as superimpose itself on Celtic tradition. Sites of pagan worship or superstition quickly became associated with Christian worship and belief. Brigid's feast day, for example, falls on 1 February, the date of Imbolg, the pagan festival of spring. Significantly Brigid was also the name of a pagan goddess, and even seems to have been used as a general name for Irish goddesses, for the name means "exalted one". The attributes of the pagan Brigid, such as healing powers, learning and poetic skill, were readily perceived in the saint who established a convent at Kildare. The name Kildare means "church of the oak", and there was probably a pagan sanctuary there with a sacred fire which burned for centuries into the Christian era. By the time of Brigid's death, c. 525, Kildare had become an important centre of learning.

The saint travelled by chariot throughout Ireland, carrying on Patrick's work of conversion, but there is no evidence that they ever met. Many miracles of healing are attributed to Brigid, such as curing lepers and giving speech to the dumb. There are tales of her turning water into ale or stone into salt, and many concern her rapport with animals. She also negotiated the release of captives. Perhaps the best known story is of her visit to a dying pagan chieftain. While she prayed, she plaited rushes into a cross. The chieftain

heard her account of the cross as a Christian symbol, and was converted and baptised before he died. It is still customary on 1 February to plait Saint Brigid's Crosses, in the hope that they will protect a household in the year ahead.

Brigid has been called "Mary of the Gaels" and a common salutation in the Irish language expresses the hope that "Brigid and Mary be with you". Her influence is not confined to Ireland, however, for she has been revered throughout the ages in innumerable countries. One legend is that the medieval Knights of Chivalry chose Saint Brigid as their patroness, and that it was they who first chose to call their wives "brides".

## THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Commemorated on February 2

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Now you shall dismiss your servant, O Lord, according to your Word..." (Luke 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."