

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 5 No. 3.1

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MARCH 6, 2016

### MEAT-FARE SUNDAY

#### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 6 **Meat-Fare Sunday.** Martyrs of Eugenia.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

In the Traditional Fast, this is the last day that we eat meat.

Wed., Mar. 9 **Archbishop Tarasius of Constantinople.**

8:00 AM *Special Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Mar. 10 **Bishop Porphyrius**

8:00 AM *Special Pirohi Making*

*There is no pirohi sale on Fri., Mar. 11*

Sun. Mar. 13 **Cheese-Fare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday).** Monk John Cassian.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

*Men's Club regular monthly meeting.*

*Church School meets.*

*Regular Social Hour*

11:30 AM **Forgiveness Vespers**

**Confessions.**

Mon., Mar. 14 **Clean Monday.** Monk David of Wales. Martyred Nun Eudoxia.

**Strict Fast Today**

For those who can, all of Clean Week, Monday through Friday, is Strict Fast.

Wed., Mar. 16 **Clean Wednesday.** Martyr Eutropius.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

5:30 PM **Confessions**

6:00 PM **Presanctified Divine Liturgy**

Thu., Mar. 17 **Monk Gerasimos.**

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Mar. 18 **Clean Friday.** Martyr Conon. New-martyr John the Bulgarian.

10 AM – 3 PM *Pirohi Sale*

5:30 PM **Confessions**

6:00 PM **Paraklis**

Sun., Mar. 20 **Sunday of Orthodoxy.** Martyred Bishops Basil, Ephrem, et al.

8:45–9:15 AM **Confessions**

9:30 AM **Divine Liturgy.**

*Church Board meets.*

3:00 PM **Paraklis at St. Michael, Freeland.**

**Fr. Alexi Preaching.**

**Confessions** are available before Lenten services. See Parish Calendar for times.

#### LENTEN SERVICES

**Memorial Services for the Deceased (Panachida or Parastas) during Lent:** The rules for when liturgical services can and cannot be celebrated are regulated by the Bishop of each Diocese. In our Diocese, there is

*no rule against celebrating Memorial services any time during the Lenten Fast itself.*

Memorial Services *are* forbidden from Lazarus Saturday through Thomas Sunday inclusive (in other words, for Holy Week and Bright Week).

Because Mothers' Day falls on Thomas Sunday this year, and because it is the practice among some Orthodox to remember the deceased on Thomas Sunday, we will make an exception on that day to celebrate the Panachida for the deceased mothers of the parish.

**Moleben for the Living:** See below under "People Stuff."

**Cheese-Fare Sunday**, we will celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> Service of the Lenten Season, **Forgiveness Vespers**, after the Social Hour. All will have an opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Confession** after Vespers.

**Wednesdays** of Lent, at 6:00 PM, we will celebrate the **Presanctified Divine Liturgy**.

**Fridays** of Lent, at 6:00 PM, we will celebrate either **Paraklis** or **Vespers for the Deceased**. Check the Parish Calendar each week.

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION** is Thursday, April 7. We will celebrate **Great Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** at 6:00 PM. There will be **no Confessions** that evening.

**Deanery Lenten Missions** are scheduled at 3:00 PM every Sunday during Lent, from the Sunday of Orthodoxy through Palm Sunday. *See the box for the Deanery Mission Schedule.*

## FASTING

**Today, Meat-Fare Sunday** is traditionally the last day that we eat meat. This week (3/7–3/12) we ease into the Great Fast by starting with abstinence all week from all meat. Dairy products are still permitted.

Diocesan rules require no more than the usual Wednesday & Friday fast.

**Great Lent** begins Monday, March 14. This day is known as *Clean Monday*. The minimum fast for this day (Diocesan Rules) for everyone is a *Strict Fast*: no meat, dairy, wine, oil.

Diocesan Rules require that all must fast/abstain from Meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent. These are the rules for the Traditional Fast during

Clean Week, repeated from the bulletin of 2/21:

**Traditional Clean Week Fast:** On weekdays in the First Week, fasting is particularly severe. According to the strict observance, in the course of the five initial days of Lent, only two meals are eaten, one on Wednesday and one on Friday, in both cases after the Liturgy of the Presanctified.

On the other three days, those who have the strength are encouraged to keep an absolute fast; those for whom this proves impracticable may eat on Tuesday and Thursday (but not, if possible, on Monday), in the evening after Vespers, when they may take bread and water, or perhaps tea or fruit-juice, but not a cooked meal. It should be added at once that in practice today these rules are commonly relaxed.

At the meals on Wednesday and Friday 'xerophagy' [*what we call Strict Fast*] is prescribed. Literally this means 'dry eating.' Strictly interpreted, it signifies that we may eat only vegetables cooked with water and salt, and also such things as fruit, nuts, bread and honey. In practice octopus and shell-fish are also allowed on days of xerophagy. Likewise vegetable margarine and corn or other vegetable oil, not made from olives are allowed. But the following categories of food are definitely excluded:

- 1) meat and meat products.
- 2) Dairy (cheese, milk, butter, eggs, etc.).
- 3) fish (i.e., fish with backbones)
- 4) oil (i.e. olive oil) and wine (i.e. all alcoholic drinks).

## PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* Deacon Michael Kozar.

*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.

*Eternal Memory* to Deacon Michael Kozar, who fell asleep in the Lord this past week. Please pray for Deacon Michael's family during this difficult time. We will celebrate the 40-Day Memorial here on *Thursday, April 7*, after the Vespertal Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation, since it will be exactly 40 days from Deacon Michael's death.

**Commemorations and Prayer for the Living and the Dead:** I'd like to address a couple of things about praying for each other, for everyone's information.

- *Donating Special Candles:* I have noticed that for some reason (I don't know why), this praiseworthy practice seems to have fallen by the wayside. Rarely are these candles donated anymore. So, I would like encourage folks to think about how they pray for each other by reminding all what they are for.

If you would like to donate for these remembrances, you can sign up in the vestibule.

In this parish, it has been the custom that people could donate the 7-day candles on the altar and the 7-day candle in the hanging lamp in front of the iconostasis. A brief explanation:

- The *Altar Vigil Candles* (donation \$5 each) are available to pray for the health and well-being of a specific person(s), or to remember someone who has died.
- The *Eternal Light* (donation \$7) has been customarily restricted to the remembrance of someone who has passed away.
- *Prayer Services:* Often we celebrate a brief service at the end of the Divine Liturgy for someone. Almost always it is for a deceased loved one, but did you know that we can also pray for the living? An honorarium is usually given to the celebrating priest for these requested services. A brief explanation:
  - *Panachida:* a prayer service for the deceased. Usually celebrated on the 40<sup>th</sup> Day after death, or on the anniversary of death, but can be requested for any time. It is the custom of this parish to celebrate this service on the Sunday

which is closest to the anniversary. [*Please note:* When we have a funeral, I have made it my own custom to celebrate a 40-day memorial as part of the funeral services.]

- *Moleben for the Living:* There is a short service which can be offered for the living. It is very similar to the *Panachida*, and is about the same length. But this service can be offered for the health of someone who is ill, or to celebrate their wedding anniversary or other big events, or for whatever intention you want.
- If you would like to have either service celebrated for a loved one, you can sign up in the vestibule. *Note:* if the service is for the living, sign up in the *Panachida list*, but write that it is for the living, and what the reason is (health, anniversary, graduation, etc.)

#### DEANERY MISSION SCHEDULE

Sun, March 20 @ St. Michael, Freeland: 3:00 PM Paraklis. Fr. Alexi will be preaching.

Sun., Mar. 27 @ St. Nicholas, Lansford: 3:00 PM Lenten Vespers. Fr. Nik will be preaching.

Sun., Apr. 3 @ St. Mary, Dickson City: 3:00 PM Moleben to the Cross. Fr. Larry will be preaching.

Sun., Apr. 10 @ St. Nicholas, Scranton: 3:00 PM Lenten Vespers. Fr. Bob will be preaching.

Sun., Apr. 17 @ St. John the Baptist, Nesquehoning: 3:00 PM Lenten Vespers Deacon Michael Azar from St. George parish will be preaching.

Sun., Apr. 24 @ St. George, Taylor: 3:00 PM Vespers. Fr. Dan Vaskalis from St. Michael parish will be preaching.

#### PARISH FUND RAISERS

**Pirohi Sales:** *Thanks* to all who helped out this past week. Next sale is Friday, March 18, with the usual workdays of Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17. See Parish Calendar.

*SPECIAL PIROHI MAKING:* To keep up with pirohi orders coming in, we are going to have an extra week of pirohi making. This will be on **this**

**coming week, Mar. 9 & 10.** There will be no sale this week, just making. We could use all the help we can get. Thanks!

**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!!!

**Altar Society News:** The Altar Society is having a prepackaged cookie sale/bake sale on Friday March 18th along with the Men's Club nut roll sale. We are asking for baked good donations from all parishioners, including fudge, candy, Pascha Breads, Easter type cookies, etc.

Please contact Carol Pugh ([toots638@comcast.net](mailto:toots638@comcast.net), 489-2321) with your donation. Cookies will be \$9.00 a container.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH	
February 28, 2016	
\$ 433.00	General Collection
\$ 10.00	1st Sunday
\$ 81.00	7 Day Light
\$ 2.00	Holy Days
\$ 371.00	Church Dues
\$ 16.00	Taper Candles
<b>\$ 913.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>
<i>Renovation Donations to date: \$1000.</i>	

### PARISH STUFF

**Diocesan Constitution and Bylaws:** More copies are available in the vestibule this week. After this, copies will be available for anyone in the office in the hall.

### FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**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 Thursday at 570-905-7387 - Pick up will be from 4-7pm on Fridays during Lent. There will be a different Soup of the week each week. All proceeds will benefit the Church.

**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.

DIOCESAN WEBSITES

*Just one more reminder:* The Diocese has worked hard to provide a great number of resources for the use and benefit of our faithful. In order to encourage all to use them, I will be keeping a list of addresses for Diocesan websites and social media in the bulletin. See the Bulletin Masthead for the list.

**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](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com) Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor (570-489-2271)

**International Dinner:** St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. is honoring the "Irish" on Thursday March 10, 2016. Seatings are 5:30 and 6:30pm. Reservations can be made by March 7 at 570.343.5151. The price for this culinary delight is only \$20.00 per person. The menu will start with a Emerald Isle Spring Mix Salad with tomato, craisins, candied almonds, feta cheese and topped with a raspberry vinaigrette. The Entree will be County Cork Ham & Cabbage served with Parsley Broiled Spuds and side vegetable. Irish Soda bread will accompany the meal and there will be a Special Irish Dessert

Surprise. Enjoy a cold Guinness or a delicious, hot Irish Coffee for only \$5.00. Coffee, Tea, Water, Soda are included and a cash bar is available.

**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**

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> FINDING OF THE HONORABLE HEAD  
OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**February 24/March 8**

*From [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)*

After the Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, his body was buried by disciples in the Samarian city of Sebaste, and his venerable head was hidden by Herodias in an unclean place. St Joanna, the wife of King Herod's steward Chuza, secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives in one of Herod's properties.

After many years, this property passed into the possession of a government official who became a monk with the name of Innocent. He built a church

and a cell there. When they started to dig the foundation, the vessel with the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocent recognized its great holiness from the signs of grace emanating from it. Thus occurred the First Finding of the Head. Innocent preserved it with great piety, but fearful that the holy relic might be abused by unbelievers, before his own death he again hid it in that same place, where it was found. Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed.

During the days of St Constantine the Great, when Christianity began to flourish, the holy Forerunner appeared twice to two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable head.

The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him the precious burden to carry. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy Forerunner appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, with what he held in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he placed it in a water jug and gave it to his sister.

From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by devout Christians, until the priest Eustathius (infected with the Arian heresy) came into possession of it. He beguiled a multitude of the infirm who had been healed by the holy head, ascribing their cures to the fact that it was in the possession of an Arian. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. After he buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emesa, the heretic intended to return later and use it for disseminating falsehood. God, however, did not permit this. Pious monks settled in the cave, and then a monastery arose at this place. In the year 452 St John the Baptist appeared to Archimandrite Marcellus of this monastery, and indicated where his head was hidden. This became celebrated as the Second Finding. The holy relic was transferred to Emesa, and later to Constantinople.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Parish Calendar for March 2016</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>All Souls Saturday</i>  9 AM Divine Liturgy & Hramoty
6 <i>Meat-Fare Sunday</i>  9:30 AM Div. Lit.	7	8 Finding the head of St. John the Baptist	9 <sup>Abp. Tarasius</sup>  8 AM <i>Special Pirohi</i> Prep	10 <sup>Bp Porphyrius</sup>  8 AM <i>Special Pirohi</i> Making	11 <sup>Confessor Procopius</sup>  <i>NO PIROHI SALE</i>	12
13 <i>Cheese-Fare/ Forgiveness Sun.</i> 9:30 Div. Lit. <i>Men's Club</i> <i>Church School</i> 11:30 Forgiveness Vespers & Confessions	14	15	16 <sup>Martyr Eutropius</sup>  8 AM <i>Pirohi</i> Prep  5:30 PM Confessions 6:00 PM Presanctified	17 <sup>Monk Gerasimos</sup>  8 AM <i>Pirohi</i> Making	18 <sup>Martyr Conon</sup>  10 AM – 3 PM <i>Pirohi</i> Sale. <i>Cookie Sale.</i> <i>Kolači Sale</i>  5:30 PM Confessions	19 <sup>Theodore the Recruit</sup>
20 <i>Orthodoxy Sunday.</i> 8:45 AM Confessions 9:30 AM Div. Lit. <i>Parish Board meets</i> 3 PM Paraklis in Freeland	21	22	23 <sup>Martyr Codratus</sup>  5:30 Confessions 6:00 PM Presanctified	24	25 <sup>Bp Gregory Dialogus.</sup>  5:30 PM Confessions 6:00 PM Vespers for the Deceased. Hramoty	26 <sup>2<sup>nd</sup> All-Souls Saturday</sup>
27 <sup>St. Gregory Palamas.</sup> 8:45 AM Confessions 9:30 AM Div. Lit. <i>Church School meets</i> 3 PM Vespers in Lansford	28	29	30 <sup>Bp Patrick of Ireland.</sup>  8 AM <i>Pirohi</i> Prep  5:30 PM Confessions 6:00 PM Presanctified	31 <sup>Abp Cyril of Jerusalem</sup>  8 AM <i>Pirohi</i> Making	4/1 <sup>Martyrs Chrysanthus &amp; Daria</sup> 10 AM – 3 PM <i>Pirohi</i> Sale 5:30 PM Confessions 6:00 PM Vespers for the Deceased. Hramoty	4/2 <sup>3<sup>rd</sup> All-Souls Saturday.</sup>