

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

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

Panachida: Metropolitan Nicholas - 5th Anniversary of his falling asleep

Men's Club regular monthly meeting.

Church School meets.

Quick Altar Society meeting.

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.

10 AM – 3 PM *Pirohi Sale & BAKE SALE! & Men's Club Famous Kolači 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

Cheese-Fare Sunday, we will celebrate the 1st 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

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 Vespers 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 40th 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.)

PARISH FUND RAISERS

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

SPECIAL PIROHI MAKING: God Bless & Thanks! To all who helped out at this past week's pirohi making. You all did a great job! (As usual!)

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, 489-2321) with your donation. Cookies will be \$9.00 a container.

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Breadbasket of NEPA: Donation boxes are in the hall.

PARISH STUFF

Church School meets today.

Altar Society meeting today – just a quick meeting to talk about our parish's upcoming Mission Sunday on April 10.

Parish Board meets next Sunday, Mar. 20.

Renovation Work: Just wanted to let folks know that the job of painting the rectory is about half done. After that, refinish the floors, etc.

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

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH

March 6, 2016

\$ 360.25	General Collection
\$ 54.00	1st Sunday
\$ 80.00	7 Day Light
\$1736.00	Pirohi
\$ 372.00	Church Dues
\$ 9.00	Taper Candles
\$2611.25	Total Collection

Renovation Donations to date: \$1000

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.

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: stcyrls.weconnect.com Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor (570-489-2271)

Camp Nazareth Family Camp 2016: Our Diocese is pleased to announce its fourth annual Family Camp at Camp Nazareth this year in conjunction with Family Day. The event is exactly what it sounds like. Families "camping" together in the Camp cabins and participating in a weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and with one another.

This year's them – "Not letting Orthodoxy be your Family's Secret Identity". Our Family's Orthodoxy is

both Public and Private...sometimes our family has to be like Superman and sometimes like Clark Kent!!

Family Camp is scheduled for Friday, June 3 – Sunday, June 5, 2016.

We had a wonderful time together last year and we are looking forward to being together again this year. A variety of events and activities have been planned that will allow families to learn, have fun and pray together, and simply be together in the peaceful environment of the Camp. With the newly renovated and expanded cabins, together with the new High and Low Ropes Course the Camp has even more to offer our families this year.

Don't miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so please send in your registration forms soon. They are due by Friday, May 20, 2016 and can be found at the Camp website -- campnazareth.org.

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.



Office of the Bishop

*312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906*

March 7, 2016
Protocol No. 6/2016

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Diocesan Parents and Children,

Our Diocese is pleased to offer our fourth annual Family Camp at Camp Nazareth this year in conjunction with Family Day. The event is exactly what it sounds like. Families “camping” together in the Camp cabins and participating in a weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and one another.

Last year we had a wonderful time together and we are looking forward to being together again this year. We know our families need support and help, especially in this day and age. Here is an event to support and sustain our families as we continue to develop our own Diocesan Family Ministry.

Family Camp is scheduled for Friday, June 3 – Sunday, June 5, 2016.

The Registration Form, Flyer and Schedule are all available on the Camp website: campnazareth.org. We have planned a variety of activities and events that will allow your family the opportunity to learn together, have fun together, pray together and simply be together in the peaceful environment of the Camp. Remember that we have newly renovated cabins with a few more comforts than before including private showers, living rooms and air-conditioning. We also have the newly constructed High and Low Ropes Course for those that are brave enough!

Families will be staying together, and have to themselves a Camp cabin; plenty of space to rest and relax and simply be together during and after the weekend’s festivities. Please see the section entitled “Packing for Camp” in the “Camper/Parent Information Guide” on the Camp website to help you plan what to pack. Don’t miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Come and help us to make this an ongoing and rewarding event for our Diocesan families.

Space is limited to the first 10 families, so please send in your registration forms soon. They are due by Friday, May 20, 2016.

With my blessing I remain

Working in His Vineyard

+ Bishop Gregory

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

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

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE



Camp Nazareth Family Camp June 3 – June 5, 2016

Don't Let Orthodoxy be Your Family's Secret Identity

Registration Form

Father's Name _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____
Mother's Name _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____
Child #1's Name _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____
Child #2's Name _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____
Child #3's Name _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____
Child #4's Name _____ Email _____ Birth Date _____

(Please list additional children on reverse side)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish (Name & City) _____

Home Phone _____ Family Email _____

Cost is \$50/person up to a maximum of \$150/family. Price of Family Day Meal is included in cost.

Children under age 5 attend for free. I/We understand that my/our insurance coverage for my/our family will be used as primary coverage in the event medical intervention is needed. I/we further understand that I/we will be responsible for any expense not covered by my/our insurance. I/We understand all reasonable safety precautions will be taken at all times by Camp Nazareth and its agents during Family Camp. I/We understand the possibility of unforeseen hazards and know the inherent possibility of risk. I/We agree not to hold the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Camp Nazareth, their leaders, employees, and/or volunteer staff liable for damages, losses, diseases, or injuries incurred by the subjects of this form. I/We agree to indemnify and hold harmless, the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Camp Nazareth, their leaders, employees, and/or volunteer staff from any expenses, losses, claims, or damages incurred as a result of the acts or omissions of the subjects of this form.

Parent(s) Signatures _____ Date _____

Please return this form along with a \$25 non-refundable deposit to:

Camp Nazareth, 339 Pew Road, Mercer, PA 16137

You may also fax or email the form to: Fax: 724-662-3723 or Email:

campnazareth@acrod.org

Forms and Deposit due by Friday, May 20, 2016