

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

Vol. 5 No. 3.3

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MARCH 20, 2016

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

### PARISH CALENDAR

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

8:45–9:15 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy.

Panachida: Charles & Susan Balisen by family

*Church Board meets.*

3:00 PM Paraklis at St. Michael, Freeland.  
Fr. Nik Preaching.

Tues., Mar. 22 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste.

Fast is mitigated today. Wine and oil permitted. See explanation below.

Wed., Mar. 23 Martyr Codratus & companions.

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Presanctified Divine Liturgy

Fri., Mar. 25 Symeon the New Theologian. Bishop Gregory Dialogus of Rome.

5:30 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Vespers for the Deceased and reading of the Hramoty (list of names).

Sat., Mar. 26 2<sup>ND</sup> ALL SOULS SATURDAY.  
Archbishop Nicephorus of Constantinople.

*Services for the deceased on Friday night.*

Sun. Mar. 27 Remembering St. Gregory Palamas.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets  
*Church School meets.*

*Deanery Mission at Lansford canceled.*

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

### LENTEN SERVICES

This Wednesday at 6:00 PM, we will celebrate the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

This Friday at 6:00 PM, we will celebrate Vespers for the Deceased.

This Saturday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> All-Souls Saturday. We will remember the deceased at the Friday night service.

The Deanery Lenten Mission. This week Paraklis is scheduled for 3:00 PM at St. Michael, Freeland. See the box for the Deanery Mission Schedule.

## FASTING

**Great Lent.** 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 for this week, repeated from the bulletin of 2/21:

- Monday through Friday inclusive, one meal a day is permitted, to be taken in the afternoon following Vespers, and at this one meal xerophagy [*Strict Fast*] is to be observed.
  - A reminder: *strictly speaking*, Strict Fast means total abstinence from the following:
    - meat
    - Animal products (cheese, milk, butter, eggs, lard, etc.).
    - fish with backbones (shellfish are allowed)
    - oil (i.e. olive oil) and wine (i.e. all alcoholic drinks).
- On Sunday and Saturday, two main meals may be taken in the usual way [i.e., cooked], around mid-day and in the evening, with wine and olive oil; but meat, animal products and fish are not allowed.
- Also, Tuesday, March 22 is the *Feast of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste*. Wine and oil are permitted on this day because it is a minor feast. Theoretically the rule would ordinarily apply only if a person is attending the special services for that day (Presanctified Liturgy is supposed to be celebrated). However, since no service is scheduled that day here, this does not apply.

## 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 Tigie. Gary Wassel.

*At Home:* Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga. Anna Senich.

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

*Note on Sue Danchak:* Sue has moved a couple of times recently as her therapy needs have changed. She is currently at

Room 335, Allied Terrace *Personal Care Facility*.

The address listed is 100 Terrace Lane, Scranton, PA 18508. *However*, if you are using GPS you may be fooled. To get there: turn LEFT off Morgan Highway at the *upper* entrance at Allied. Then, make the first *right* and go up the hill. The facility is at the top. Sue's phone number is 570-313-4060.

*Eternal Light* donated last Sunday in memory of Charles & Susan Balisen by family.

*Altar Vigil Lights* today in memory of Charles & Susan Balisen by family.

## PARISH FUND RAISERS

**Pirohi Sales:** *Thanks* to all who helped out this past week. Next sale is Friday, April 1, with the usual workdays of Wednesday, March 30 and Thursday, March 31. See Parish Calendar. After we see how this sale goes, a decision will be made about the April 15 sale.

## PARISH STUFF

**Parish Mission Day April 10.** As you know we will be hosting the Deanery Mission Service on this day. The Altar Society has once again generously chosen to host the event. However, we are looking for donations for the meal. Last year we had almost double the turnout from previous years. Thankfully we had more than enough to feed everyone. We don't know what the size of the crowd will be this year, but we hope to offer a welcoming supper and our hospitality to all, as we have done so often in the past. So, folks are welcome to donate an item for the Mission supper. Here is what has already been pledged:

Tuna Salad

Pasta Salad

Fruit Salad

Jello

Soup (fasting)

Cake (non-dairy)

Some ideas for items: another soup (fasting). More

desserts (non-dairy). Bread. Something else you can think of? There is a sign-up sheet in the hall. Please sign up so that the ladies know what you are bringing and can plan properly.

**Church School** meets next Sunday.

**Parish Board** meets today.

**Renovation Work *update*:** The painting in the rectory is finished. Refinishing the floors and other work will not begin for a couple of weeks.

### DEANERY MISSION SCHEDULE

*Revised and updated March 20, 2016*

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

Sun., Mar. 27 @ St. Nicholas, Lansford: 3:00 PM  
– *Canceled.*

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:** *Update!* 7 boxes of food items were delivered to the Bread Basket of NEPA on Wednesday. The volunteers thanked the parishioners for their constant support and caring for their neighbors who rely on the weekly supply of food to help meet the nutritional needs of their family. These donations of food are especially needed during this time when funding is still on hold until the budget is settled. *God bless you all for your generosity!*

Donation boxes are in the hall.

### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH

March 13, 2016

\$ 690.00	General Collection
\$ 14.00	1st Sunday
\$ 69.00	7 Day Light
\$ 20.00	Holy Days
\$ 465.00	Church Dues
\$ 130.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 11.00	Tapered Candles
<b>\$1399.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

*Renovation Donations to date: \$1000*

### ADVOCATES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

#### TALKS WITH ELDER SYMEON:

#### A REFLECTION FOR ALL SOUL SATURDAYS

*By Sergius Bulgakov*

*from www.acrod.org*

The time of my departure was approaching. One evening I sat in the Garden of the monastery with Dr. Rosov, Fr Vassian (Fr Symeon), Fr Isaiah, and Fr Poemen, the sacristan. We discussed the book by Soloviev. "The story which impressed me most, Fr. Vassian" (Fr Symeon), I said, "was that entitled 'Advocates from Beyond the Grave.' "

"What is written there?" Fr Vassian asked, meditatively stroking his beard. "The story is simple enough," I answered. "In the reign of Nicholas I, when Bishop Parthenius Chertkov, brought up in the great aristocratic family of Naruishkin, occupied the See of Vladimir (1821-1849), one priest, a certain Fr. Abbacum, occupied the poorest parish in the diocese. The son of a sexton, he married a poor girl and they lived in great poverty.

Fr. Abbacum was a mighty man of prayer and particularly loved to pray for the dead. He had a special notebook, where he entered the names of all the dead of whom he might have heard. He mentioned them not only during the proskomedia (prayers in preparation for the Divine Liturgy), but also in his private prayers, morning and evening. For this reason his prayers lasted for hours.

"This often displeased his wife, who used to say, 'You should give up those long, supplementary prayers and instead help me at the house garden, etc., for I am very tired. You are neither a monk nor a

recluse. If you want to pray so long, go to the Bishop and ask for a better parish where we could afford servants. Then you may pray as long as you like.'

"Fr. Abbacum used to respond by saying that prayer is the first duty of a priest and must not be neglected. Concerning a better parish, Fr. Abbacum thought that it was unseemly to beg for one from his Bishop. They should wait with patience, until he offered such a post. His wife reluctantly agreed.

"Meanwhile, the best parish in the diocese became vacant. It was in a large and rich industrial town. Over two hundred applications were made to the Bishop. Among the applicants were professors of the Seminary, Rural Deans, Masters of Divinity, and mitred Archpriests. Nearly all the applications were accompanied by letters of recommendation from prominent clergymen and laymen, including the Governor of the Vladimir Province himself. After looking through all those applications, the Bishop, failing to come to any decision, went to bed.

"Hardly had he closed his eyes when he saw before him a large crowd of people, of both sexes and of various ages and stations, who respectfully begged the Bishop to appoint Fr. Abbacum to the vacant parish. The Bishop knew nothing of Fr. Abbacum's existence. The Bishop woke, crossed himself, and went to sleep again. The same crowd appeared again before him with the same request. "'Who are you,' the Bishop asked, 'and why do you like Fr. Abbacum so much?'

"'We are dead people who were forgiven by God and entered the Kingdom of Heaven thanks to the prayers of Fr. Abbacum,' the crowd answered and disappeared.

"The next morning the Bishop called in the Secretary of the Consistory and asked him to find out at what parish there was a priest named Abbacum and to invite him to come to Vladimir. There was only one Fr. Abbacum in the diocese. One day his Rural Dean came to him with an order to appear before the Bishop as soon as possible.

"'Did you commit some mistake or misdeed, Father?' the worried Dean asked him.

"'No, I don't remember any such thing,' Fr. Abbacum answered. 'I go with a clear conscience, except I have no money for the trip.' The Dean lent him the money.

"'Within a few days Fr. Abbacum appeared before

the Bishop, who at once recognized him from the dream. 'Well, Fr. Abbacum,' the Bishop said, 'the best parish in my diocese is vacant and 200 applications have been sent in for it. Many prominent persons recommended the applicants, but your advocates from the other world were the strongest of all. I appoint you Pastor of that parish, and when I too shall go the way of all flesh, I beg you to pray for me.' The Bishop then told Fr. Abbacum of his dream.

"God alone knows the future," Fr. Vassian said, "but we should pray for the dead. They are truly our advocates. We request the canonized saints to implore the mercy of God for us. But there are many unknown saints who may help us. It is a good and honorable thing to pray for the dead."

**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**

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**(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.*

**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.

**Rummage Sale April 2; Items Needed** St. Thomas More Catholic Parish (at St. Joseph Church, 1625 North Main Avenue at Theodore Street) will hold a Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., offering a large array of clothing, housewares, toys, baked goods, and lunch. Donated ITEMS of all types are most welcome, and may be dropped off any time prior to Friday, April 1; please call the Parish Office at 570-343-0634 to set up a time for drop-off.

**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 theme – *“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](http://campnazareth.org).

**St. Mary's International Dinner Club**, 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. presents "ITALY" on Thursday, April 14, 2016. Seatings are at 5:30 and 6:30pm. This enticing Menu starts with Polenta, then a succulent Chicken Marsala served in a delicate wine and mushroom sauce accompanied by Penne Pasta with Vodka Sauce. Top it off with a Cannoli for dessert. Coffee, Tea and Water are included and a Cash Bar is available. Call by April 11th with your reservation at 570-343-5151. The cost is \$20.00 per person!

## FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

### Antiphons & Beatitudes

Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* Blessed art Thou, O Lord. \* Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* and all that is within me, \* bless his holy Name. \* Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* and forget not all his benefits. \* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \* long-suffering and of great goodness. \* Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* and all that is within me, \* bless his holy Name. \* Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

O Only-begotten Son and Word of God, Who being immortal, willed for the sake of our salvation to become incarnate of the holy Birth-giver of God and ever-Virgin Mary, and without change became man. And was crucified for us, O Christ God, Who by your death did conquer death. O You, Who are One of the Holy Trinity, equally glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

O Lord, remember us when You come into your kingdom. (*Music Pew Book pp 14–15*)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you, when men revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

**Tropar of the Resurrection - Tone 1** [*Music p. 81*] [*Like the Theophany Tropar, "At your Baptism"*]

Your tomb was sealed with a stone by the Jews, \* and the soldiers guarded your most pure body. \* yet You arose on the third day, O Savior, \* giving life to the world. \* The heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of Life: \* "Glory to your resurrection, O Christ! \* Glory to your Kingdom! \* Glory to your plan of salvation, for You alone love mankind.

**Tropar of the Holy Icons - Tone 2**

We venerate your most pure Image, O Good One, \* and ask forgiveness for our transgressions, O Christ our God. \* For You of your good will were pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh \* to deliver your creatures from the bondage of the enemy. \* Therefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: \* "O Savior, by your coming to save the world You have filled all with joy."

**Kondak of the Resurrection - Tone 1** [*Music p. 81*] [*Like the Theophany Tropar, "At your Baptism"*]

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

Being God, You rose in glory from the tomb, \* O Lord, restoring life to the world and conquering death. \* All humanity exalts You as God. \* Adam rejoices and Eve, delivered from her bonds, glories and cries out to You: \* "O Christ, You are the resurrection of all."

**Kondak of the Holy Icons - Tone 8**

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

No one could describe the Word of the Father, \* but when He took flesh from you, O Birth-giver of God, \* He accepted to be described \* and restored the fallen image to its former state, \* by uniting it to divine beauty. \* We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and icons.

**Prokimen - Tone 4**

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our fathers. \* Your Name is praised and glorified forever.

*Reader:* In all that You have done your justice is apparent.

**Epistle:** Heb 11:24-30. 12:1-2

**Alleluia - Tone 4**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Reader:* Among his priests were Aaron and Moses; among those who invoked his Name was Samuel.

*Reader:* They invoked the Lord and He answered.

**Gospel:** John 1:43-51

**Instead of "You are truly deserving"** (*Pew Book, pp 47-48*)

In you, O Woman Full of Grace, the angelic choirs and the human race, as well as all creation rejoices. O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, and Glory of Virgins, He Who is our God before all ages took flesh from you and became a child. He made your womb a throne greater than the heavens. In you, O Woman Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. All praise be to you! All praise be to you! All praise be to you!

**Communion Hymns**

*For Sunday:* "Praise the Lord"

*For the Commemoration (Communion Hymn #4, page 60)*

: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the upright. Alleluia!