

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

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

Altar Vigil Candles: Pugh and Bonk Families.

Eternal Light: Memory of Edward Bonk, Sr.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Breadbasket of NEPA: Donation boxes are in the hall.

PARISH STUFF

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS! To all who helped make Bishop Gregory's visit pleasant and successful. It was good to see so many people come out to greet him. It was good to see so many of you going up to meet him in the hall. It all went very well!

Thank you and God bless to all who remembered me with your cards, gifts and prayers. Christ is risen!

Easter Egg Hunt on Pascha: As in past years, an Easter Egg Hunt will take place for the kids next Sunday, after the Divine Liturgy.

Men's Club: The regular monthly meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, May 8.

Parish Board meets May 15.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH

April 24, 2016

\$ 500.00	General Collection
\$ 15.00	Annoymous
\$ 113.00	7 Day Light
\$ 15.00	Holy Days
\$ 93.00	Church Dues
\$ 437.00	Palm Sunday Offering
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 13.00	Taper Candles
\$ 2.00	Flowers
\$1195.00	Total Collection

Renovation Donations to date: \$1000

FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

Camp Nazareth Raffle Tickets are now available in the Office in the Hall. They go pretty fast, so please

see Nick Polanichka for yours!

CAMP NAZARETH CABIN BLESSING AND DEDICATION! All of us are invited to take part in the dedication of the newly renovated and expanded cabins at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. We are invited to the Service of Dedication which will take place at 10am on that day and then to the brunch which will be served in the Main Lodge following the dedication.

If you are able, plan on attending the festivities. Come to enjoy the festivities and give thanks to God for what He has allowed us and blessed us to accomplish.

See the flyer in the hall with the RSVP. Please note that reservations for the event must be received by May 3, 2016!! Hurry! Space is limited!

The Diocesan 3rd Annual Young Women's Encounter will take place from Sunday June 26th to Wednesday June 29th, 2016. The YWE will be held at Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Windber, Pennsylvania. Young women in our Diocese ages 12 - 18 are strongly encouraged to attend.

Registration details are forthcoming on our Diocesan website acrod.org. Please register as soon as possible – Space is limited! For more information or if you have any questions please contact Pani Eleni Stagon at acrodywe@gmail.com.

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

Christian Unity Service: On Ascension Thursday, May 5, 2016, The CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES GATHERING OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, will gather for a Service of Praise and Prayer at the First Presbyterian Church at 97 S Franklin St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

The prayer service will be at 12 noon. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky of the Polish National Catholic Church will be the homilist. We hope that members and friends of your parish will be able to join us for our second **Ascension Day Service of Praise and Prayer** to pray for Christian unity. Fellowship will follow the prayer service, so that we can continue our efforts to celebrate and work for Christian unity.

We hope that you will come and that you will invite people you know who are interested in ecumenism and prayer for Christian unity to join us at this our second Ascension Thursday Service of Praise and Prayer. Hopefully you will share this information in your bulletin, newsletter or pulpit comments.

Please let Jennifer Andres know you are coming by emailing your response to: Jennifer-Andresi@dioceseofscranton.org or by calling her at 570-207-2213. Please respond no later than Tuesday, April 26, the sooner the better, will be appreciated, so that adequate preparation can be made.

In Christ, from the Members of the *Christian Communities Gathering of Northeast Pennsylvania*.

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18503 is featuring "ORIENTAL DELIGHTS" at their International Dinner Club on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at the Church Catechetical Center. Seatings are at 5:30 and 6:30pm and reservations may be made by May 9th at 570-343-5151. The cost is only \$20.00 per person. The menu will start with Aunt Min's Egg Drop Soup, and the entree will be Uncle Tao's Pork Stir Fry (Pork Tenderloin, Rice Noodles and Vegetable Stir Fry) .

The dessert will be Chinese Almond Cookies with Fruit Infused Vanilla Ice Cream. Coffee, Tea, Soda and Water are included and a cash bar is available. **St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church**, 205 N. Main St. Pittston IS HAVING A HALUPKI (PIGGIE DINNER) on Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 1-3pm at our Church Hall. Adult tickets are \$10.00 and Children under 12 -\$7.00. We are also selling Lottery Tickets for the month of June. All are welcome to attend!

St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, 205 N. Main St., Pittston is having a "**TRUNK SALE**" on June 4th, 2016 in the Church Parking Lot. Clear your garage and sell your stuff without strangers at your house. Pack up your "junk" and throw it in the trunk and make dollars! We will open from 8am to 3pm; set-up at 7am. Pre-paid spots are only \$10.00 each. Limited Space available. 1st Come - 1st Served. No Refunds. Call today to reserve your spot! 570-905-7387. E-Mail - lindahando@hotmail.com. Rain Date is June 11th. Food will be available.

St. Tikhon's Monastery 2016 Annual Pilgrimage

Join us May 27-30th for the 112th Memorial Day Pilgrimage! Archimandrite Sergius and the Brotherhood invite everyone to attend for part or all of this year's event.

The arrival of the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God at 3:30pm on Friday will officially mark the start of the 112th Pilgrimage Weekend at St. Tikhon's Monastery.

Highlights of this year's Pilgrimage include

- A PaTRAM Young Singers Conference which will run concurrently during the weekend.
- A historical display of the Alaskan Native Spiritual Legacy from Villanova University will be on display in the monastery's museum.
- See the box for the Schedule.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

By His Grace Bishop John P. Abdalah

After Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, Mary asked, "So Father, how the heck are you?" "Great," I replied. "Why?" she responded with a trace of disbelief in her tone. Knowing her as I do, and living in the same world that she lives in, it was not hard to understand

what was in her heart. The news is filled with a mother who drowned her children, the Israelis besieging every major Palestinian village and city, family members facing serious struggles. Some people in the parish are upset that we want to add icons to the walls of the Church and fasting during Lent is a drag. "Well, Mary," I continued, "for at least three reasons. It costs less to be great; God has given life and it is a beautiful day; and Christ is Risen, opening up salvation to all people whom He created and loves." "Oh, that's what you mean," Mary replied as she walked away before I could begin a sermonette.

Knowing that Christ is Risen doesn't lessen the tragedies or struggles that beset us, but it does offer us a lens through which to see the world. We are serious about being in Christ and about putting Christ on through baptism. Once we are grafted into Christ, we share His ministry and His life. In Christ, who is outside of time, we too experience the past, present, and future. We live anew in Him and we respond to our world through Him. It is Christ, and from His cross, that we see anew the pain of a mother who could not cope in her environment, and prematurely and tragically ended the lives of her children. Through Christ's empty tomb, we see anew armed soldiers surrounding and shooting into the Church of the Holy Nativity where our Lord was born, and destroying private homes and a whole people's way of life. By way of our Lord's Ascension, we view anew our family and parish struggles. We who have put on Christ are not imagining or pretending that we are someplace else in time or space. Rather, we who have put on Christ understand the world from His perspective. Through this lens we see anew. At times it deepens the sadness and pain of the sin in our world and lives; but at the same time, it recognizes God's response. His response was to take on flesh, share in the pain, and lift us with Him in His Ascension.

To do good to alleviate suffering without Christ is to lose the point of the Incarnation. We must guard against losing sight of the goal. The goal for those who put on Christ is Christ. The pass-over from death into life is a pass-over from the fallen world to the Kingdom, not simply to a better fallen world.

I weep with Christ over the suffering in Jerusalem, the suffering in America, the suffering in my parish and the suffering among our sick and elderly. But I rejoice that in His Jerusalem is Jesus Christ, enthroned

and sovereign. Some are asking why God is not acting. I am rejoicing that by His Incarnation God has acted, and has called us home. In Christ, we must do what we can for peace everywhere. In Christ, we must do what we can to alleviate suffering; we must pressure those who prevent ambulances from caring for wounded people, to let those ambulances in. We must carry each other's crosses and put ointment on each other's wounds. But we do all of these difficult works in the joy and life of the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ. Yes, I'm great, because God has opened up paradise to the thief, and to you and me.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Christ Is Risen!

ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE	
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016	
3:30 pm	Official Opening of the 112th Pilgrimage with Molioben to the Iveron Hawaiian Icon of the Mother of God.
4:00 pm	Vespers and Matins(Monastery Church) <i>All pilgrims are invited to dinner after.</i>
SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2016	
9:00 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
1:00 pm	74th Annual Academic Commencement of St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary
4:00 pm	Resurrection Vigil (Monastery Church) <i>All pilgrims are invited to dinner after.</i>
SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016	
9:00 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy <i>All pilgrims are invited to dinner after.</i>
4:00 pm	Vespers and Matins(Monastery Church)
MONDAY, MAY 30, 2016	
7:30 am	Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church
10:00 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
12:15 pm	Veteran's Pannikhida and Memorial Service, All Saints Bell Tower
1:30 pm	Akathist to Saint Alexis Toth in the Monastery Church
2:30 pm	Molieben to the Most Holy Theotokos and Anointing of the Sick, Infirm and all Pilgrims at the Monastery Bell Tower
4:00 pm	Vespers and Matins(Monastery Church)