

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MAY 8, 2016

### THOMAS SUNDAY

Christ Is Risen!      Christos Voskrese!      Christos Anesti!      Feltamadt Krisztus      Al Massih Kam!  
Indeed He Is Risen!      Vo Istinu Voskrese!      Alithos Anesti!      Valoban Felta-madott!      Hakkan Kam!

### PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., May 8 THOMAS SUNDAY. Mothers' Day. Holy  
Apostle Mark.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – special sheets  
Panachida for all the deceased mothers of our  
parish and our parishioners.

*Men's Club regular monthly mtg  
rescheduled for May 22.*

Sun., May 15 SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING  
WOMEN. Bishop Athanasius the Great  
of Alexandria.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets  
*Parish Board meets.*

**Confessions:** available before scheduled services.

### FASTING AND FEASTING

**PASCHAL SEASON:** Beginning today, we return to the  
usual Wednesday and Friday fast.

**ANTIPASCHA: ST THOMAS SUNDAY :** Some icons  
depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting  
Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription  
reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic  
inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When St

Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he  
no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does  
not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of  
Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after  
Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year  
to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called  
"Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in  
Greek.

### PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* Denise Sovitch.

*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.  
Rose Markiewicz. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka.  
Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Faye  
Snell. Patricia Snell. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann  
Marie Tigie.

*At Home:* Michael Andreosky. Elizabeth Basalyga.

Anna Senich.

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

*Eternal Light:* Memory of Denise Sovitch by the Pucher family.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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

### PARISH STUFF

**From Laurence Czibik:** I wish to thank all of you who came to pray for Denise at the funeral, and for all of your loving support and prayers during this very difficult time. God bless you all!

**Memorial Donation:** \$1000 in memory of Denise Sovitch by Laurence Czibik.

**Men’s Club:** The regular monthly meeting is re-scheduled for Sunday, May 22.

**Parish Board** meets May 15.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH	
May 1, 2016	
\$ 473.00	General Collection
\$ 156.00	1st Sunday
\$ 216.00	7 Day Light
\$ 84.00	Pirohi
\$ 107.00	Holy Days
\$ 93.00	Church Dues
\$ 30.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 37.00	Tapered Candles
\$ 10.00	Vigil Light
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 4.00	Palm Sunday
\$1916.00	Easter Offering
\$ 30.00	Mission Donation
<b>\$3163.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>
<i>Renovation Donations to date: \$1000</i>	

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

**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.

<b>ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE</b>	
<b>FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016</b>	
3:30 pm	Official Opening of the 112th Pilgrimage with Molieben 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>
<b>SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2016</b>	
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>
<b>SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016</b>	
9:00 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy <i>All pilgrims are invited to dinner after.</i>
4:00 pm	Vespers and Matins(Monastery Church)
<b>MONDAY, MAY 30, 2016</b>	
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)

**APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MARK**

April 25/May 8

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, also known as John Mark (Acts 12:12), was one of the Seventy Apostles, and was also a nephew of St Barnabas (June 11). He was born at Jerusalem. The house of his mother Mary adjoined the Garden of

Gethsemane. As Church Tradition relates, on the night that Christ was betrayed he followed after Him, wrapped only in a linen cloth. He was seized by soldiers, and fled away naked, leaving the cloth behind (Mark 14:51-52). After the Ascension of the Lord, the house of his mother Mary became a place where Christians gathered, and a place of lodging for some of the Apostles (Acts 12:12).

St Mark was a very close companion of the Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29) and Barnabas. St Mark was at Seleucia with Paul and Barnabas, and from there he set off to the island of Cyprus, and he traversed the whole of it from east to west. In the city of Paphos, St Mark witnessed the blinding of the sorcerer Elymas by St Paul (Acts 13:6-12).

After working with the Apostle Paul, St Mark returned to Jerusalem, and then went to Rome with the Apostle Peter. From there, he set out for Egypt, where he established a local Church.

St Mark met St Paul in Antioch. From there he went with St Barnabas to Cyprus, and then he went to Egypt again, where he and St Peter founded many churches. Then he went to Babylon. From this city the Apostle Peter sent an Epistle to the Christians of Asia Minor, in which he calls St Mark his son (1 Pet 5:13).

When the Apostle Paul came to Rome in chains, St Mark was at Ephesus, where St Timothy (January 4) was bishop. St Mark went with him to Rome. There he also wrote his holy Gospel (ca. 62-63).

From Rome St Mark traveled to Egypt. In Alexandria he started a Christian school, which later produced such famous Fathers and teachers of the Church as Clement of Alexandria, St Dionysius of Alexandria (October 5), St Gregory Thaumaturgos (November 5), and others. Zealous for Church services, St Mark composed a Liturgy for the Christians of Alexandria.

St Mark preached the Gospel in the inner regions of Africa, and he was in Libya at Nekropolis.

During these journeys, St Mark was inspired by the Holy Spirit to go again to Alexandria and confront the pagans. There he visited the home of Ananias, and healed his crippled hand. The dignitary happily took him in, listened to his words, and received Baptism.

Following the example of Ananias, many of the inhabitants of that part of the city where he lived were

also baptized. This roused the enmity of the pagans, and they wanted to kill St Mark. Having learned of this, St Mark made Ananias a bishop, and the three Christians Malchos, Sabinos, and Kerdinos were ordained presbyters to provide the church with leadership after his death.

The pagans seized St Mark when he was serving the Liturgy. They beat him, dragged him through the streets and threw him in prison. There St Mark was granted a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who strengthened him before his sufferings. On the following day, the angry crowd again dragged the saint through the streets to the courtroom, but along the way St Mark died saying, "Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

The pagans wanted to burn the saint's body, but when they lit the fire, everything grew dark, thunder crashed, and there was an earthquake. The pagans fled in terror, and Christians took up the body of St Mark and buried it in a stone crypt. This was on April 4, 63. The Church celebrates his memory on April 25.

In the year 310, a church was built over the relics of St Mark. In 820, when the Moslem Arabs had established their rule in Egypt and oppressed the Christian Church, the relics of St Mark were transferred to Venice and placed in the church named for him.

In the ancient iconographic tradition, which adopted symbols for the holy Evangelists borrowed from the vision of St John the Theologian (Rev 4:7) and the prophecy of Ezekiel (Ez. 1:10), the holy Evangelist Mark is represented by a lion, symbolizing the might and royal dignity of Christ (Rev 5:5).

St Mark wrote his Gospel for Gentile Christians, emphasizing the words and deeds of the Savior which reveal His divine Power. Many aspects of his account can be explained by his closeness to St Peter. The ancient writers say that the Gospel of Mark is a concise record of St Peter's preaching.

One of the central theological themes in the Gospel of St Mark is the power of God achieving what is humanly impossible. The Apostles performed remarkable miracles with Christ (Mark 16:20) and the Holy Spirit (Mark 13:11) working through them. His disciples were told to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures (Mark 13:10, 16:15), and that is what they did.