

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MAY 22, 2016

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

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 22 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC. Martyr Christopher. Translation of the Relics of Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – special sheets
Panachida: Memory of Richard Czibik by Laurence Czibik.

Men's Club meets today.

Wed., May 25 Feast of Mid-Pentecost. Bps. Epiphanius & Germanos.

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Special Sheets
Panachida: Memory of Denise Sovitch by Mildred and Walter Orzolek.

Sun., May 29 SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. Monk Theodore.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets
Panachida for all who have died in the service of our country.

Mon., May 30 MEMORIAL DAY. Apostles Andronicus & Junia of the 70.

9:00 AM Grave Blessings – Parish Cemetery
10:30-ish AM Abington Hills
Noon-ish Fairview (in Elmhurst)
3:00 PM Nicholson

Confessions: available before scheduled services.

FASTING AND FEASTING

PASCHAL SEASON: We continue the usual Wednesday and Friday fast.

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 Tigue.

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

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

Eternal Light: Richard Czibik by Laurence Czibik.

PARISH STUFF

Men's Club: The regular monthly meeting is re-scheduled for today.

Memorial Day Grave Blessings: Grave Blessings will again be on Memorial Day, May 30. I plan to begin at the parish cemetery at about 9:00 AM. Here is the tentative schedule:

9:00 AM	Parish Cemetery
10:30-ish AM	Abington Hills
Noon-ish	Fairview (in Elmhurst)
3:00 PM	Nicholson

The above times are approximate. As usual, I would appreciate it if you could let me know if I can call your cell phone to let you know I am on the way to your cemetery.

Parish Board Meeting – Because of scheduling conflicts, the next Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 5.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH

May 15, 2016

\$ 435.00	General Collection
\$ 83.00	7 Day Light
\$ 14.00	Pirohi
\$ 6.00	Holy Days
\$ 157.00	Maintenance & Repairs
\$ 7.00	Eternal Light
\$ 11.00	Taper Candles
\$ 713.00	Total Collection

Renovation Donations to date: \$1000

MARTYR CHRISTOPHER OF LYCIA

May 9/22. From www.oca.org

The Holy Martyr Christopher lived during the third century and suffered about the year 250, during the reign of the emperor Decius (249-251). There are various accounts of his life and miracles, and he is widely venerated throughout the world. St Christopher is especially venerated in Italy, where people pray to him in times of contagious diseases.

There are various suggestions about his descent. Some historians believe that he was descended from the Canaanites, while others say from the "Cynoscephalai" [literally "dog-heads"] of Thessaly.

St Christopher was a man of great stature and unusual strength. According to tradition, St Christopher was very handsome, but wishing to avoid temptation for himself and others, he asked the Lord to give him an unattractive face, which was done. Before Baptism he was named Reprebus [Reprobate] because his disfigured appearance. Even before Baptism, Reprebus confessed his faith in Christ and denounced those who persecuted Christians. Consequently, a certain Bacchus gave him a beating, which he endured with humility.

Because of his renowned strength, 200 soldiers were assigned to bring him before the emperor Decius. Reprebus submitted without resistance. Several miracles occurred along the way; a dry stick blossomed in the saint's hand, loaves of bread were multiplied through his prayers, and the travellers had no lack thereof. This is similar to the multiplication of loaves in the wilderness by the Savior. The soldiers surrounding Reprebus were astonished at these miracles. They came to believe in Christ and they were baptized along with Reprebus by St Babylus of Antioch (September 4).

Christopher once made a vow to serve the greatest king in the world, so he first offered to serve the local king. Seeing that the king feared the devil, Christopher thought he would leave the king to serve Satan. Learning that the devil feared Christ, Christopher went in search of Him. St Babylas of Antioch told him that he could best serve Christ by doing well the task for which he was best suited. Therefore, he became a ferryman, carrying people across a river on his shoulders. One stormy night, Christopher carried a Child Who insisted on being taken across at that very moment. With every step Christopher took, the Child seemed to become heavier. Halfway across the stream, Christopher felt that his strength would give out, and that he and the Child would be drowned in the river. As they reached the other side, the Child told him that he had just carried all the sins of the world on his shoulders. Then He ordered Christopher to plant his walking stick in the ground. As he did so, the stick grew into a giant tree. Then he recognized Christ, the King Whom he had vowed to serve.

St Christopher was brought before the emperor, who tried to make him renounce Christ, not by force but by cunning. He summoned two profligate women, Callinike and Aquilina, and commanded them to

persuade Christopher to deny Christ, and to offer sacrifice to idols. Instead, the women were converted to Christ by St Christopher. When they returned to the emperor, they declared themselves to be Christians. Therefore, they were subjected to fierce beatings, and so they received the crown of martyrdom.

Decius also sentenced to execution the soldiers who had been sent after St Christopher, but who now believed in Christ. The emperor ordered that the martyr be thrown into a red-hot metal box. St Christopher, however, did not experience any suffering and he remained unharmed. After many fierce torments they finally beheaded the martyr with a sword. This occurred in the year 250 in Lycia. By his miracles the holy Martyr Christopher converted as many as 50 thousand pagans to Christ, as St Ambrose of Milan testifies. The relics of St Christopher were later transferred to Toledo (Spain), and still later to the abbey of St Denis in France.

In Greece, many churches place the icon of St Christopher at the entrance so that people can see it as they enter and leave the building. There is a rhyming couplet in Greek which says, "When you see Christopher, you can walk in safety." This reflects the belief that whoever gazes upon the icon of St Christopher will not meet with sudden or accidental death that day.

The name Christopher means "Christ-bearer." This can refer to the saint carrying the Savior across the river, and it may also refer to St Christopher bearing Christ within himself (Galatians 2:20).

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!

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.

CLERGY CONVOCATION & CAMP NAZARETH NOTES

I was not able to attend this year's Clergy Convocation due to scheduling conflicts. However, I have learned a couple of things about the happenings there. I am passing along a note from Fr. Jim Dutko who talks about the Camp and other stuff:

Dear Readers of "The Bee,"

Christ is Risen!

I hope this note finds you and yours in good health and spirit as we approach the third Sunday of the Paschal cycle, that of the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women and Joseph of Arimathea.

Having returned from our Clergy Encounter with Bishop Gregory at Camp Nazareth this past week, I had an opportunity to see the incredible work that has been there through the fall, winter and spring.

The Cabins look like they have been rebuilt from the foundation up. the expanded facilities will make the camp a year-round facility for retreats and programs for young and older alike.

The kids are in for excitement when they encounter not only the Low Ropes course which went up last year, but the High Ropes course and the Zip Line too. All of these are tools to help develop leadership and teamwork among kids and adults too.

Finally, we were thrilled to learn that our Bishop Gregory has been appointed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to be a participant in The Great and Holy Synod of Orthodoxy, which begins on Pentecost Sunday, June 19th on the Island of Crete. He will be one of 24 bishops of the Ecumenical Patriarchate participating in this long awaited and historic council. Keep him and the bishops in your prayers!

Asking Our Lord's Blessing and extending regards,

Fr. Jim

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. 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. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, 320 Mifflin Ave. Scranton International Dinner Club is featuring "EASTERN EUROPEAN CUISINE" on June 9. The menu will start with Fresh Cabbage Soup with the Entrée of Chicken Paprikash over Kluski Noodles with a side dish of Zucchini served with cream Smetana Sauce. The dessert will be Cheese filled Crepes topped w/assorted berries. Coffee, Tea, Water and Soda are included with the meal and a Cash Bar is available. The cost is \$20.00 per person and you can make reservations by calling 570-343-5151 before June 6, 2016.

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.

ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND PILGRIMAGE	
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016	
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) <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) <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)
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)