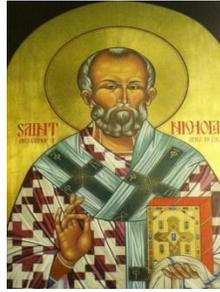


# The Saint Nicholas Chronicle



## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18510

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Church Website:  
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Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>  
Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>  
Youtube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2017

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### **Sunday, February 12** – Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs / Prodigal Son

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Special Hymns – Blue Pew Book – Three Hierarchs (p. 151) and Prodigal Son (pp. 175/176)  
**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20      **Gospel:** Luke 15:11-32  
*Panachida for Kathryn Stocoski given by the Parish Board.*

#### **The Meeting of our Lord**

Tuesday, February 14 – 6:30 PM Great Vespers

Wednesday, February 15 – 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Special Hymns – Blue Pew Book – pp. 152-154  
**Epistle:** Hebrews 7:7-17      **Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

#### **Saturday, February 18** – First All Souls Saturday

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Special Hymns for the Deceased – Blue Pew Book – pp. 235-240  
**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 10:23-28      **Gospel:** Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

#### **Sunday, February 19** – Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat-Fare Sunday)

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy  
Blue Pew Book – Tropar → Resurrection Tone 2 (p. 84) and Special Hymns → p. 177  
**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2      **Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46  
*Panachida for Walter Orzolek given by Laurence Czibik.*

**Confessions:** *Prior to scheduled services. If you cannot make it, please let me know and we can set up a time that is convenient for you.*

## *Please Keep in Your Prayers*

**Singing:** Fr. Lawrence Barriger. Fr. Michael Polanichka. Fr. John Gido. Fr. George Hutnyan. Fr. James Gleason. Fr. Tom Kadlec. Fr. George Dursa. Fr. Donald Valasek. Fr. Jonathan Tobias. Fr. Michael Rustick. Fr. John Zboyovski. Fr. Robert E. Lucas. Pani Donna Smoley. Pani Linda Barriger. Pani Peggy Teklinski. Reese: Eric, Tamsen, James, Gineva, Benjamin, and Thomas. Ann Richardson. Joseph Kacaba. Lorraine Kacaba. Stephanie Bonk. Bill Wassel. Owen Bonn. Gloria Bracey. Susan Danchak. Ricky, Rick & Sarah. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Tammy Hall. Heather Harris. Madelyn Hodanich. Johnny Huniyack. Anna Mae Kuklis. Rose Markiewicz. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Faye Snell. Patricia Snell. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. AnnMarie Tigue. Gary Wassel. Aubrey Wydock. Eugene Vaskalis.

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

**Assisted Living:** Julie Roberts. Marion Sosnowski. Delores Naglak. Mary Kneiss. Susan Danchak.

**Eternal light:** In memory of Denise Sovitch given by Laurence Czibik.

## **Parish Life**

### **FILL UP THE BREADBASKETS OF NEPA!**

Please remember those families who rely upon food donations to help make ends meet! We have a food donation container in the Church Hall, and ***we need your help*** to fill this container with non-perishable food items: cans, dry goods, etc.

*“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food...’”*

### **YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH:**

*February 5, 2017*

\$557.00	General Collection
\$172.00	First Sunday
\$66.00	7 Day Light
\$186.00	Church Dues
\$7.00	Eternal Light
\$7.00	<u>Taper Candles</u>
<b>\$995.00</b>	<b>Total Collection</b>

<b>Spring 2017 PIROHI SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Wednesday PREP</b> 7:30 AM	<b>Thursday PINCHING</b> 8:00 AM	<b>Friday SALES</b> 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
<b><i>February 22</i></b>	<b><i>February 23</i></b>	<b><i>February 24</i></b>
March 8	March 9	March 10
March 22	March 23	March 24
April 5	April 6	April 7

***Parish News***

- The **Men's Club** will meet **this morning** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- **Sunday School** will be held **this morning** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- The **Parish Board** will meet **next Sunday February 19**.
- **Sunday School** will meet again **Sunday February 26**.

**News Around the Diocese**

**Support ZOE for Life!** While the time to contribute to the 2016 Advent Mission Project has ended, "ZOE for Life!" is still *always* in need of baby items. Many mothers in crisis cannot afford a car seat and babies cannot be released from the hospital without a safe car seat. Pack 'n Plays can serve as a safe sleeping alternative to a crib. ZOE House is also in constant need of infant layette items: clothing, linens, baby wash, and baby lotion. A "baby registry" has been created on Amazon.com (view the link on [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)). All items will be shipped directly to "Zoe For Life!"

To encourage the purchase of items on the registry, churches may wish to host a "virtual" baby shower. Please consider gathering together in the spirit of Orthodox Fellowship and shop the National ACRY baby registry. All items will be shipped to ZOE directly. The baby registry will remain available until 2018!

ZOE also has a campaign "Bottles for Babies" underway. Churches may wish to place a baby bottle in a common area to collect loose change. ***Ours is in the back of the church! If you ever cannot find it and/or wish to make a contribution, please see Father Daniel!***

Please take time to visit [Zoeforlifeonline.org](http://Zoeforlifeonline.org) for more information on ZOE for Life and ZOE House. **While the time to participate in the 2016 Advent Mission Project has ended, the Baby registry is available until 2018 and we still have the blue baby bottle for loose change!**

**Pre-Lenten Pork Dinner**

Father Myron Myronyuk and his parish family of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Scranton, cordially invite you to join us for our annual Pre-Lenten SLOW ROASTED PORK DINNER **today, February 12, 2017**, beginning at 12:30pm at St. Vladimir Parish Center, 428 North Seventh Avenue, between West Lackawanna Avenue and West Linden Street.

Menu: Slow roasted pork loin with gravy, Ukrainian sweet and sour cabbage (kapusta), butter and dill potatoes, vegetable, applesauce, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, beverages.

Adults \$13.00; Students \$8.00; Age 5 and under free.

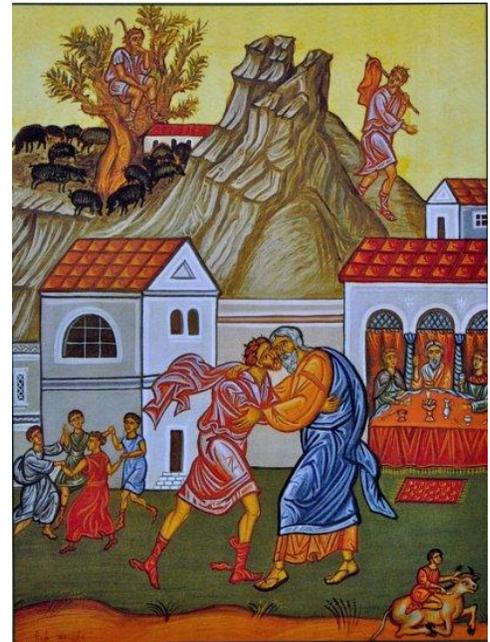
Advance reservations required: phone Kathleen Izak at 570 346-2414 (please do not call the church). Takeouts available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Doors open at 11:30am. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

Welcome to our table!

# SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Text from [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

Image from [www.orthodox.net](http://www.orthodox.net)



## “The Prodigal Son: “From a Far Country...”

### - *A homily by Father Steven Kostoff*

“And He said, ‘There was a man who had two sons....’”

This is how Christ begins what is perhaps the greatest of his parables, the one we know as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but which could easily be titled the “Parable of the Two Sons” or the “Parable of the Compassionate Father.” With this parable, we are invited to enter the “school of repentance”—Great Lent—and sit at the feet of the Master, so that we can hear the words of eternal life and “keep them.”

After receiving his portion of the inheritance, even before his father had died, the younger of the two sons “gathered all that he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living” [Luke 15:13]. This one sober understatement does not demand a great deal of imagination to yield its meaning. We know that *loose living* refers to a web of wrong choices, bad company, unrestrained satisfaction of “the passions,” and forgetfulness of God. This spiritually suicidal combination leads to bankruptcy on a further series of interrelated levels: the material, moral/ethical and spiritual. In no time, the prodigal son is forced to feed “on the pods that the swine ate” [Luke 15:16].

Before succumbing to the temptation of trying my hand at an updated melodramatic script that would luridly describe the sins of the wayward young man of the parable—replete with money, sex and drugs—together with all of the didactic apparatus meant to strengthen our resolve to protect our children (since we are now too old for all of that), I would rather more modestly pause at the words about a journey “into a far country.” The far country of the parable is geographical, for the young man of the parable ventured far from his home. Yet, a “far country” can also refer to a hidden place in our interior landscape; a “place” in which we can distance ourselves from God and right living to a frightening degree, even if slowly and unintentionally. At first, that interior far country can prove to be appealing. It can appease our vanity, protect our pride and/or feed “the passions” that we can nurture, even if hidden from the view and censure of others. This is initially stimulating and seems to promise endless delight—perhaps like the endless freedom that an unsupervised dorm may offer to an innocent college student away from the sheltering, but seemingly restrictive, atmosphere of home.

When the emptiness of such a landscape becomes evident, we too can desperately desire to “feed on the pods that the swine ate.” The self-serving (or “self-help!”) philosophies on which we squandered our “inheritance” from God will no longer satisfy us, but in a restless and hungry search for something else to replace these, we can even fall to the level of “swinish delights”—anything to relieve our boredom or frustrations. Without moving anywhere, and without changing the patterns of our lifestyle, we can still withdraw to a “far country” in that interior landscape that can prove to be as treacherous as any unknown environment of the exterior world. It is said of the prodigal son of the parable, that when at “rock bottom,” he “came to himself” [Luke 15:17]. This is certainly one of the key expressions found in this endlessly rich parable. The young man found his right mind, his sanity was restored, and basically he “got a grip on reality”—a non-dramatic, but perfect, way to describe “conversion,” or the process of turning back toward God and the warm embrace of our heavenly Father.

A certain clarity of thought is needed to find our way home when we drift off toward a far country. The short-lived rock band of the late 1960s, Blind Faith, had an intriguing song entitled “Can’t Find My Way Home.” Perhaps that was an honest and clear-sighted assessment of the band’s state of mind at that time (money, sex and drugs?) and a poignant recognition of being in a “far country.” Two other songs on the album, however—“In the Presence of the Lord” and “Sea of Joy”—may have pointed to more promising discoveries. Every year, through the lectionary of the Church especially in this pre-Lenten season of preparation, we are powerfully reminded of just how far away from “home” we may actually be in mind and heart. If we have been equally prodigal with the gifts bestowed upon us by God, then we can equally “come to ourselves” and return home to the embrace of our compassionate Father.”