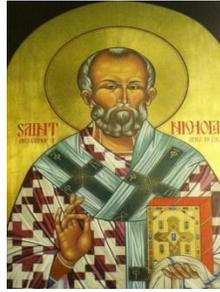


The Saint Nicholas Chronicle



ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

505 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18510

Fr. Daniel Vaskalis, Pastor
Rectory: 621 Vine St., Scranton PA, 18510
Rectory: (570) 344-5917
Parish Hall: (570) 344-1522
Church Website:
www.stnicholasorthoxscranton.org
***Fr. Daniel Cell: (570) 861-2712 ← PLEASE USE
Fr. Daniel Email: frdvaskalis@gmail.com

Jane Togher, Board President
(570) 842-3311
jctogher@gmail.com
Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org>
Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
Youtube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioecese>

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2017

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 5 – The Publican and the Pharisee

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy
Tropar / Prokimen – Tone 8 – Blue Pew Book p. 102/104; Kondak of the Publican and the Pharisee– p. 175
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14
Panachida for Eleanor Sovitch given by Laurence Czibik.

Saturday, February 11 – Vespers 6:30 PM --- Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs

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.

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.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Lent is fast approaching! Let us begin to prepare ourselves for the upcoming Season of the Fast so that we may joyfully celebrate the Feast of Feasts, our Lord's Glorious Resurrection!

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Living : 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:

January 29, 2017

\$530.00	General Collection
\$82.00	7 Day Light
\$1,375.00	Pirohi
\$9.00	Holy Days
\$3.00	Maintenance and Repairs
\$10.00	Vigil Light
\$7.00	Eternal Light
\$11.00	Taper Candles
\$20.00	Christmas Offering
\$2,047.00	Total Collection

Spring 2017 PIROHI SCHEDULE		
Wednesday PREP 7:30 AM	Thursday PINCHING 8:00 AM	Friday SALES 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
<i>February 8</i>	<i>February 9</i>	<i>February 10</i>
February 22	February 23	February 24
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 **next Sunday February 12** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- **Sunday School** will be held **next Sunday February 12** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- The next **Parish Board Meeting** will be on **Sunday February 19**.

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). 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 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 **next Sunday, 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.

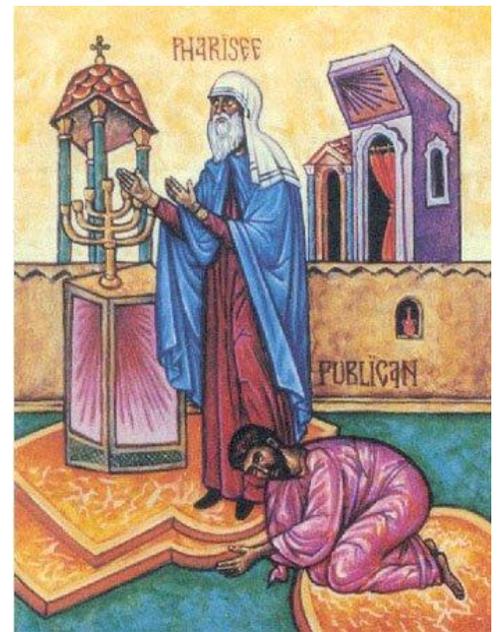
Advance reservations required: phone Kathleen Izak at 570 346-2414 (please do not call the church). Takeouts available between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon only. Doors open at 11:30am. Door prizes will be awarded along with a 50/50 drawing.

Welcome to our table!

THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Text from www.goarch.org

Images from www.pemptousia.com



A HOMILY BY REVEREND ANDREW DEMOTSES

“Jesus Christ shared the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee with us to warn us of the great spiritual danger of arrogant self-confidence in our own righteousness, coupled with contempt for those whom we consider to be beneath us. In this way Jesus sought to protect us from the terrible spiritual sickness of Pharisee-ism.

This disease of the soul first manifests itself as absolute confidence and trust in the rightness of our own point of view and judgment; it presupposes our personal superiority over others. And this twisted expression of self confidence quickly degenerates into uncritical self-satisfaction and self righteousness, into a kind of mindless self-admiration. It takes endless pleasure in the self, and in all that it does.

Let us look at the Pharisee in today’s parable. He goes into the Temple of God to offer incense to his own self-idol. He proclaims his saintliness and enumerates his good works. He admires and praises himself. He, after all, is not like other people who are up to their necks in immorality and evil. In the midst of his supposed prayer he does not hesitate to spill the poisonous bile of his hatred for the Publican whom he sees praying off in a distant corner. With exaggerated self-satisfaction he refers to his careful fasting and his generous support of the temple. He is indeed a fastidious observer of the law of the covenant.

And even though we feel repulsed by the attitude and behavior of the Pharisee, we need to be honest enough to admit to ourselves that there are more than a few times when we astonishingly resemble him. After all, who among us does not want others to think that we are better people than we actually are? Which one of us does not suffer from some lack of respect toward others? Is there even one of us who is very lenient in his judgment of others, and sterner in his own self-criticism? I sincerely doubt it. Every one of us, more or less, has something of that Pharisee inside of us - something of that self-adulation and righteousness. And so to protect ourselves from infection by this disease requires nothing less than constant struggle and vigilant effort on our part.

A truly Christian heart seeks to do what is just and right as a simple and natural expression of our responsibility as persons. But even then we understand that our good deeds do not reflect perfection and so should not be the cause of weaning pride on our part. That is why Saint Basil, who devoted his entire life to the loving service of others wrote, “Even if we were somehow able to do absolutely everything that is required of us, we would still have to conclude that we are unworthy servants of the Lord. And this is because after having done all this, we will only have fulfilled our basic duty and obligation and nothing more.”

This condemnation of the smug self-satisfaction of the Pharisee leads us to the justification of the Publican, who keenly feels and readily acknowledges his personal inadequacies. The Publican is admittedly burdened by a host of sins. But he is acutely aware of his sinfulness and spiritual poverty. And so he stands back, in the farthest corner of the temple. He does not dare to even lift his eyes toward heaven. With heavy sighs, he whispers his short prayer, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

His prayer is a request, a plea actually, that is filled with contrition. And this contrition, this acknowledgement and confession of personal imperfection, is nothing less than the very cornerstone of the entire spiritual life. And this is because it is inseparably bound with humility of the soul; and it is humility that allows divine grace to transfigure and sanctify our lives.

Perhaps the attitude that we need to acquire if we wish to offer prayer that is acceptable before God, is summed up in the words of Jesus himself who said to us, “Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and in Me you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Matt. 11:28). May we too approach the altar of God with that same gentleness of spirit, and with that same humility of heart and soul.”