

The Saint Nicholas Chronicle



ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2018 - THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday March 11 – Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross (The Third Sunday of Lent)

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil

Hymns (Blue Pew Book) – pp. 182-183 (first – Tropar Tone 7, p. 99)

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Panachida for His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

3:00 PM – Lenten Mission in Dickson City

Wednesday, March 14 3:30 PM – Moleben to the Holy Cross

Friday, March 16 3:30 PM – Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts (*please fast at least 3 hours before receiving Communion*)

Saturday, March 17 The Fourth All-Souls Saturday / Venerable Gerasimus

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Hymns for the Departed (Blue Pew Book) pp. 235-240

Epistle: Hebrews 6:9-12 Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Sunday March 18 – Saint John Climacus (The Fourth Sunday of Lent)

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil

Hymns (Blue Pew Book) – pp. 183-184 (first – Tropar Tone 8, p. 102)

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:16-30

3:00 PM – Lenten Mission in Nesquehoning

Confessions: (30 minutes) Prior to as well as following scheduled services. When you come for Confession, please prepare yourself and sit in the front pew. If you cannot make the scheduled service times, please let me know and we can set up a time that is convenient for you. Thank you!

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. Jonathan Tobias. Fr. Michael Rustick. Fr. John Baranik. Fr. Nicholas Wyborski. Fr. John Zboyovski. Fr. Robert E. Lucas. Deacon James Phifer. Pani Donna Smoley. Pani Linda Barriger. Pani Constance Miloro. Pani Amy George. Pani Peggy Teklinski. Reese: Eric, Tamsen, James, Gineva, Benjamin, and Thomas. Stephen Barnett. Ann Richardson. Joseph Kacaba. Lorraine Kacaba. Lovie Swingle. Stephanie Bonk. Bill Wassel. Owen Bonn. Gloria Bracey. Susan Danchak. Michael Danchak. Jada Eiden. Madelyn Hodanich. Margaret Skotlewski. John Hrywnak. Johnny Huniyack. Anna Mae Kuklis. Maryann Ludwig. Rose Markiewicz. Mary Phillips. Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Russell Spilka. Rita Sher. Jeff Thomas. Janet Pugh. AnnMarie Tigues. Gary Wassel. Michael Coviello. Mary Kay Wroblewsky.

At home : Michael Andreosky. Ann Richardson. Anna Senich.

Assisted Living : Marion Sosnowski. Delores Naglak. Susan Danchak.

Eternal light : In memory of Charles and Susan Balisen given by Family.

Parish Life

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH:

March 4, 2018

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...*'"

\$358.00	General Collection
\$82.00	First Sunday
\$73.00	7 Day Light
\$1,429.00	Pirohi
\$4.00	Holy Days
\$8.00	Maintenance and Repairs
\$4.00	Taper candles
\$7.00	Eternal Light
\$130.00	Memory of Elizabeth Basalyga
\$70.00	Memory of John Polanichka
\$2,165.00	Total Collection



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to Norah DiMichele, who will celebrate her birthday this Thursday, March 15, 2018! May God grant her many happy and blessed years!

PARISH NEWS

SPRING 2018 PIROHI SCHEDULE		
Wednesday Prep	Thursday Pinching	Friday Sales
March 14	March 15	March 16
March 28	March 29	March 30

- The **Men's Club** will meet **this morning** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- **Church School** has been rescheduled to **next Sunday, March 18**, immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- **Church School** will then meet again the **last Sunday of the month, March 25**, immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- The **Parish Board** will meet next **Sunday, March 18**, immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- Please help support the Church with our **upcoming "PAINT NIGHT" FUNDRAISER** to be held on **Friday March 23, 2018 at 6:30 PM here in the Church Hall**. Hope to see you there!
- **LENT!** We are now three weeks into the Great Fast! This is a time of increased prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and repentance. Thus, the Church calls us to come to the **Mystery of Confession at least once**, and to fast from meat products on Wednesdays and Fridays. However, we must never allow the minimum to become the maximum!
- **Easter Kolachi Sale!** The Men's Club is now taking orders for their famous Kolachi! Rolls are only \$8.00 each. Available flavors: Walnut, Poppy seed, Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry (Seedless) Coconut. Pick-up date: Friday, March 30, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM. To order there is a sign-up sheet in the church hall or call [570-344-1522](tel:570-344-1522) and leave a message with your order. PLEASE ORDER SOON!!!
- **Diocesan Senior Citizens Retreat** at Camp Nazareth! Our Diocese is pleased to offer its first annual Senior Citizens' Retreat this year from April 23-25 at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA, for all Seniors age 65 and older. Join His Grace Bishop Gregory for 3 days of fellowship, prayer, and rejuvenation. For more information, visit www.acrod.org or see Father Daniel.

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE / DEANERY

POCONO DEANERY LENTEN MISSION SCHEDULE

TODAY	--- 3:00 PM --- Dickson City, PA --- Moleben to the Holy Cross --- Father Daniel preaching
Sunday March 18	--- 3:00 PM --- Nesquehoning, PA --- Vespers for Sunday of Saint John of the Ladder --- Father Alexi preaching
Sunday March 25	--- 3:00 PM --- Scranton, PA --- Vespers for Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt --- Deacon Michael preaching

OUR LENTEN MISSION

There is a **signup sheet in the Church Hall** for those who wish to donate food for our Deanery Lenten Mission on Sunday, March 25, 2018. We are looking for egg salad and tuna sandwiches, soups, pizza, pasta salad, etc. and desserts. Thank you!

NEWS AROUND THE SCRANTON COMMUNITY

SEATS ARE FILLING UP FAST! Please remember that Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (Scranton) is sponsoring a **springtime bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 19, 2018**. There will be two stops in Manhattan: the 911 Memorial Museum at Ground Zero and the 42nd annual St. George Ukrainian Street Festival on the Lower East Side. Adults \$70.00; Seniors 65+ \$64.00; Youth 7 to 17 years \$62.00 Participants can follow the above two-step itinerary or are free to do their own thing for part or all of the day. For those not visiting the Museum the cost is \$44.00. Departure from Saint Vladimir Church **428 North Seventh Avenue** will be at 8:00am and departure from New York City for home will be at 8:30pm. **For additional details and to make reservations contact Dave Pietryka at (570) 954-8517 or Paul Ewasko at (570) 563-2275**. Due to the large number of visitors, Museum staff strongly recommends early confirmation of the number of tickets to be ordered. Therefore we ask that reservations and nonrefundable payment be made preferably before April 1. Checks should be made out to Saint Vladimir Church.



THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Text from: <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com>

Homily by Father Philip LeMasters

TROPARION OF THE CROSS (Tone 1)

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, * grant Orthodox Christians victory over their enemies, * and protect Your people with Your cross.

“ In any kind of difficult challenge, it’s always inspiring to know that you are half way to the end. It might be a race, a school year, or a project at work; if you’ve made it this far, you know that you can eventually reach your goal.

We are now half way through the season of Lent, and the Church calls our attention today to the great symbol of victory, the great sign of hope, our Lord’s cross. During the time of Jesus Christ’s earthly ministry, of course, no one was inspired by the cross, for it was a feared instrument of execution. No one honored the cross and certainly no one thought that God’s Messiah would die on one.

So it was profoundly shocking when the Savior told His disciples that He would be rejected, suffer, die, and rise again. When St. Peter tried to correct Him, Christ called him “Satan” and said that he was thinking in human terms, not God’s. Then the Lord told the disciples what they didn’t want to hear. They too must take up their crosses and lose their lives; that’s the way to enter into the blessed salvation of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The hard truth that Jesus Christ broke to His disciples was that we can’t jump ahead to the joy of the empty tomb. We must first go with our Lord to the cross; we too must die in order to rise again. And the unpopular truth is that every last one of us needs to die to our sinfulness, to how we have distorted ourselves, our relationships, and our world. The Son of God offered Himself in free obedience to the Holy Trinity, taking upon Himself the full consequences of sin and death to the point of a horrible execution; He did so out of love for us. And thus He opened the way to the Kingdom of heaven, to life eternal, for you, me, and all humankind; indeed, for the entire creation.

And that way is the cross, for if we want to share in the joy of His resurrection, of His victory over death, we must first participate in the struggle, pain, and sacrifice of crucifixion. We must crucify the habits of thought, word, and deed that lead us to worship and serve ourselves instead of God and neighbor. We must kill our pride, our selfishness, and our slavery to pleasure. If we don’t crucify these passions, our souls will be too sick, dark, and weak to share in the glory of the resurrection. Like St. Peter, we will think in human terms, not God’s, no matter how religious or moral we appear to others.

And the reality is that we have no shortage of opportunities to take up our crosses. When we struggle to resist a temptation, when we battle angry thoughts against those who have wronged or somehow irritated us, and when we endure deep sorrows and disappointments with trust in God’s faithfulness and mercy, we take up the cross.

Fortunately, we do not go to the cross alone. No matter what we are tempted to think at times, our Savior is no stranger to temptation, suffering, pain, and death. He sympathizes with our struggles because He endured them. He was literally nailed to a cross, died, was buried, and descended into Hades in order to bring the joy of life eternal to corrupt, weak, imperfect people like you and me through His glorious third-day resurrection. And in order to follow Him to the joy of Pascha, we must likewise take up our cross.

So as we begin the second half of Lent, let us keep our eyes on the prize, looking to the great trophy of our Savior’s victory over sin and death, the cross, through which joy has come into all the world. And even though it is a struggle and none of us does it particularly well, let us put aside our own preferences and obsessions in order to take up the cross through prayer, fasting, forgiveness, mending broken relationships, and showing generosity to those in need. Let us offer our lives in free obedience to the Father, accepting whatever pain and struggle there may be in setting things right in our lives as best we can. And no matter what burdens we may bear, no matter our frustrations and failures, let us press on the joy of Pascha. Jesus Christ participated in death in order to bring us into His life, and we must participate in His death in order to share in the glory of His resurrection. So let us deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him. For this alone is the way to the brilliant light and eternal blessedness of the Kingdom of God. ”