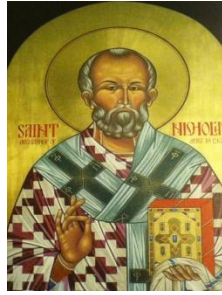


The Saint Nicholas Chronicle



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/acroddiocese>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews>
Youtube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2017 - PENTECOST

PARISH CALENDAR

Feast of Pentecost {THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE FEAST OF PENTECOST IS A FAST-FREE WEEK}

Sunday, June 4 – Pentecost

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Blue Pew Book – hymns pp. 213-216

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12

Monday, June 5 – Day of the Holy Spirit (with customary procession around the church following Liturgy)

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Blue Pew Book pp. 216-217

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19 / 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 18:10-20, 28:18-20

Sunday, June 11 – **Sunday of All Saints** (First Sunday after Pentecost)

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Blue Pew Book – hymns pp. 217-218

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Confessions: (30 minutes) Prior to as well as following scheduled services. When you come for Confession, please be prepared and sitting in the front pew. If you cannot make it for 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. Donald Valasek. Fr. Jonathan Tobias. Fr. Michael Rustick. Fr. Nicholas Wyborski. Fr. John Zboyovski. Fr. Robert E. Lucas. Deacon James Phifer. Pani Donna Smoley. Pani Linda Barriger. Pani Amy George. Pani Peggy Teklinski. Matushka Catherine Jula. Reese: Eric, Tamsen, James, Gineva, Benjamin, and Thomas. 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 Skotleski. Johnny Huniyack. Anna Mae Kuklis. Rose Markiewicz. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Faye Snell. Russell Spilka. Rita Sher. Jeff Thomas. Janet Pugh. AnnMarie Tigue. Gary Wassel. Mary Kay Wroblewsky. 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 Marion Fundak given by the Pucher Family.

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:

May 28, 2017

\$468.00	General Collection
\$8.00	First Sunday
\$88.00	7 Day Light
\$54.00	Holy Days
\$93.00	Church Dues
\$42.00	Maintenance and Repairs
\$17.00	Taper Candles
\$7.00	Eternal Light
\$2.00	Palm Sunday Offering
\$2.00	<u>Easter Offering</u>
\$781.00	Total Collection

- The **Altar Society** will meet **this morning** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- The **Men's Club** will meeting **next Sunday June 11** immediately following Divine Liturgy.
- Memorial Day Grave Blessings: **Thank you** to all those who took the time on Memorial Day to honor the memories of their departed loved ones! *Eternal Memory! Vičnaja jim pamjat'!*

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

(for more info, or to register, please go to www.acrod.org or www.campnazareth.org)

Fifth Annual Diocesan Family Camp! - Our Diocese is pleased to announce its fifth 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 – "Your Family's Sacred Story". Jesus and His family fled to Egypt. Noah and his family entered the ark. Abraham and his family left their home. Lot and his family fled Sodom. Stories of faith and God's mercy are part of every family's Sacred Story. Come learn about families of great faith in the Scriptures and be inspired. Share your own "Sacred Story" and help other families be inspired.

Family Camp is scheduled for Friday, June 9 – Sunday, June 11, 2017.

Each year we have a wonderful time together 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 register soon. **NOTE: registration closed this past Friday, June 2.**

Young Women's Encounter! REGISTER NOW! – Plans have been announced for the Fourth Annual Diocesan Young Women's Encounter which will take place **from Sunday, June 25th to Wednesday, June 28, 2017** at Sts Peter and Paul Church in Windber, PA which is open to young women in our Diocese ages 12-18.

This engaging experience will include spiritual discussions and special events. Participants will explore the role of women in the church and develop and strengthen friendships with other Orthodox young women. The YWE will highlight ways young women can live our Orthodox Faith and serve the Church with their own unique gifts.

Registration information is forthcoming. Please watch www.acrod.org for the latest information.

Questions about the event may be directed to Pani Eleni Stagon at acrodywe@gmail.com or by calling 304-296-4319.

2017 Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat! Registration for the annual Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat is now open! The retreat will take place from Sunday June 25th to Wednesday June 28th at Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown, PA! Find the link to register at www.acrod.org, or see the flyer posted in the Church Hall!

2017 Diocesan Summer Camp! Johnstown, Pocono, Southern Tier, Youngstown and Chicago Deaneries – Week of July 16-22. Register online now! Register at https://www.campnetwork.com/Register/Register.php?camp_id=396857

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT from: Celebration of Faith: Sermons, Vol. 2: The Church Year by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

"PENTECOST"

" "The Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit." I say these words I've known since childhood, and all at once they strike me as if I'm hearing them for the first time. Yes, from the time I was a child I knew that ten days following the Ascension, meaning fifty days after Pascha, Christians from time immemorial celebrated and continue to celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit in a feast known by its church name as Pentecost, or more popularly as "Trinity," the day of the Trinity.

For centuries, to prepare for this feast the churches were cleaned and adorned with greenery and branches, and grass was strewn about the floor... On the day of the feast, at the solemn vespers, the faithful stood in church holding flowers in their hands. These customs explain how the Feast of Pentecost entered popular cultural consciousness and literature as a kind of sun-filled, bright celebration, the feast of flowering, a kind of joyful encounter between human beings and God's world in all its beauty and grace.

All religions, including the most ancient and primitive, had a feast of summer flowering, a feast to celebrate the first appearance of shoots, plants, fruit. In ancient Judaism, this was the feast of Pentecost. If in Old Testament religion Passover celebrate spring's resurrection of the world and nature, then the Jewish Pentecost was the feast of movement from spring to summer, celebrating the victory of sun and light, the feast of cosmic fullness. But in the Old Testament a feast common to all societies acquires a new meaning: it becomes the annual commemoration of the ascent of Moses up Mount Sinai, where in an inexpressible mystical encounter God revealed Himself, entered into a Covenant, gave commandments, and promised salvation.

In other terms, religion ceased being simply nature, and now became the beginning of history: God had revealed his law, his commandments, his plan for humanity, and had shown the way. Spring, summer, the eternal natural cycle, became a sign and symbol not only of nature, but of man's spiritual destiny and the commandment to grow into fullness of knowledge, life and perfect wholeness... Finally, in the very last phrase of the Old Testament, through the teaching and insight of the prophets, this feast became a celebration directed toward the future, to God's final victory in his creation. Here is how the Prophet Joel speaks of this:

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even upon the menservants and maidservants in those days, I will pour out my spirit. And I will give signs in the heavens and on the earth...before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered... (Joel 2:28-32)

Thus, the Jewish feast of Pentecost is a feast of nature and the cosmos, a feast of history as the revelation of God's will for the world and human beings, a feast of future triumph, of God's victory over evil and the coming of the great and last "day of the Lord." All this must be kept in mind in order to grasp how the first Christians experience, understood, and celebrated their feast of Pentecost, and why it became one of the most important Christian celebrations.

The Book of Acts, devoted to recounting the history of the first Christians and the initial spread of Christianity, starts precisely with the day of Pentecost, describing what took place fifty days after Christ's resurrection and ten days after his ascension into heaven. Just before his ascension Christ had told his disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which he said, 'you heard from me...'" (Acts 1:4). So in ten days, according to Saint Luke's account:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... And all who heard them were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." (Acts 2:1-4, 12-13)

To those witnesses who remained skeptical, the apostle Peter explained the meaning of the event using the words of the prophet Joel quoted above. "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel," he said, "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh..." (Acts 2:16, 17)

For the Christian, therefore, the feast of Pentecost is the completion of all that Christ accomplished. Christ taught about the Kingdom of God, and here it is, now opened! Christ promised that the Spirit of God would reveal the truth, and now this is fulfilled. The world, history, life, time, are all illumined with the final, transcendent light – all are filled with ultimate meaning. The last and great day of the Lord has begun!



Feast of Pentecost Icon from: www.oca.org

Tropar (Tone 8)

Blessed are You O Christ our God, * You filled the fishermen with wisdom, * sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. * Through them You have caught the whole world in Your net. * O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

Kondak (Tone 8)

When the Most High descended and confused tongues, * He scattered the people; * but when He distributed the tongues of fire * He called all men to unity. * Therefore, with one voice, * let us praise the Most Holy Spirit.

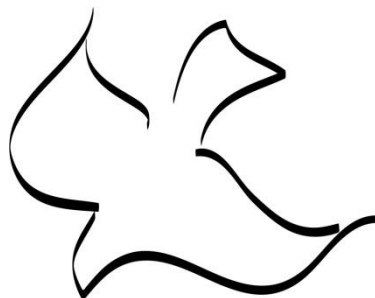


Image from www.google.com