

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

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ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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JANUARY 24, 2016

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

## PARISH CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 24 *Sunday after Theophany.* Monk Theodosios. Michael of Novgorod, Fool for Christ.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets  
*Church School Begins!*  
*Men's Club Special Meeting*

Sun., Jan. 31 35<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Athanasius & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Tone 2, pp 84–86

Wed., Feb. 3 Monk Maximos the Confessor. Virgin-martyr Agnes of Rome.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Prep*

Thu., Feb. 4 Apostle Timothy.

8:00 AM *Pirohi Making*

Fri., Feb. 5 Martyred Bishop Clement of Ancyra.

10 AM – 4 PM *Pirohi Sale*

Sun., Feb. 7 36<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke. Bishop Gregory of Nazianzus, called the Theologian.

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – Special Sheets

**Confessions** are available before Divine Liturgy.

## FEASTING...

*Upcoming Feastdays:*

**Three Holy Bishops Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom** – Feb. 12 (Jan. 30). Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.

**Encounter of Our Lord Jesus Christ with Simeon and Anna in the Temple** – Feb. 15 (Feb. 2). Divine Liturgy at 9 AM. Candles are blessed on this day.

## ...AND FASTING

**No Fasting** – the week of the Publican and the Pharisee, Feb. 21 – Feb. 27.

**Great Lent** begins Monday, March 14. We have time, so don't panic yet.

## PEOPLE STUFF

*Please remember in your prayers:*

*Deceased:* George Senich.

*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. Dee Lositski. Peggy Majcher. Rose

Markiewicz. Theresa Niester. Mary Phillips. John Polanichka. Karen Rolka. JoyAnn Scarnato. Amy Shimo. Faye Snell. Russell Spilka. Jeff Thomas. Ann Marie Tigue. Gary Wassel.

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

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

**COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Breadbasket of NEPA:** We are starting up again. Donation boxes are in the hall.

**PARISH FUND RAISERS**

**Pirohi Sales:** *Thanks* to all who helped out this past week. Next sale is Friday, Feb. 5, with the usual workdays of Wednesday and Thursday.

**Easter Kolači Sale!** The Men’s Club is now taking orders for their famous Kolači. Rolls are only \$8.00 each. Available flavors: Nut, Poppyseed, Lekvar, Apricot, Raspberry Coconut. *Pick-up Date:* Friday, March 18, 10 AM to 3 PM. To order, call 570-344-1522 and leave a message with your order. Order soon!!!

**PARISH STUFF**

**Group Event Update: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.*** It looks like there is enough interest in going to be able to get the group rate price. **However, you must commit by today** so that the tickets can be bought.

- *When:* Sunday February 7, 1:00 PM show.
- *Where:* Scranton Cultural Center. Lower Balcony seats (I am told these are good seats).
- *Cost:* Group rate is \$45.50/ticket.

Please see Bill Thomas or Nick Polanichka to make your commitment & buy your tickets.

**House Blessings: *Big Request!*** I know that sometimes it is inconvenient or difficult for folks to plan to have their house blessed. So, If you do **not** want me to come by this year, please just call me, or email me, or drop a note in the collection basket. It is no problem, and would help me in my planning.

*You may want to* get some of the New Jordan Water so that you are ready to have your house blessed when I come. Just saying.

**Altar Society** will meet on Sunday, February 14, to talk about upcoming Fund Raisers.

**Church School** begins the Winter term *today, barring Acts of God.* Yay!!

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND OUR CHURCH	
Jan 17, 2016	
\$353.00	General Collection
10.00	1st Sunday
79.00	7 Day Light
185.00	Church Dues
34.00	Holy Days
85.00	Maintenance & Repairs
11.00	Taper Candles
7.00	Eternal Light
1.00	Calendar Donations
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\$765.00	Total
<i>Renovation Donations to date: \$1000.</i>	

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE	
Jan. 24	Mar. 13
Feb. 7	Mar. 37
Feb. 28 (Note	Apr. 10
change)	Apr. 24 - Palm
	Sunday, Last Class

**Christmas Trees still available:** We have two slightly used Christmas trees which are free for the taking. If you are interested, please see Frank Pucher who can show them to you. First come, first serve. Get yours now, before it goes away!

## FROM THE DIOCESE & OTHER STUFF

**Pirohi, Haluski, Clam Chowder Sale St. John's Auxiliary**, 310 Broadway Ave. Scranton will be held on Feb. 10th. Orders will be taken until Jan. 16 or while manageable. Pick up date is Feb. 10th between 10 and 2pm. Prices: Pirohi \$8.00 dozen; Haluski \$7.00 qt.; Clam Chowder \$8.00 qt. Please call 570-343-8820.

**International Dinner is "France"** St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church - 310 Mifflin Ave. Scranton, Pa. is proud to announce that the International Dinner for February is "France."

### A CHARLIE BROWN NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION: "HAPPINESS"

Happiness is finding a pencil,  
Pizza with sausage, and telling the time.  
Happiness is learning to whistle,  
And tying your shoe for the very first time.

Happiness is  
Playing the drum in your own school band.  
And happiness is  
Walking hand in hand.

Happiness is two kinds of ice cream,  
Knowing a secret, climbing a tree.  
Happiness is five different crayons,  
Catching a firefly, and setting him free.

Happiness is  
Being alone every now and then.  
And happiness is  
Coming home again.

Dinner is on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Seatings will be at 5:30 or 6:30pm. Reservations can be made at 570-343-5151 by February 9. The menu will start with an Appetizer of Frisee salad tossed in a warm mustard seed vinaigrette an bacon lardons. The Entree will be Beef Bourguignon served with a white bean puree. The dessert is Homemade Beignets. Coffee, Tea, Water is Included and a Cash Bar is available. The price is only \$20.00 per person.

Happiness is morning and evening,  
Daytime and night time too.  
For happiness is anyone and anything at all  
That's loved by you.

Happiness is having a sister, sharing a  
sandwich,  
Getting along.  
Happiness is singing together when day is  
through,  
And happiness is  
those who sing with you.

Happiness is morning and evening,  
Daytime and nighttime too.  
For happiness is anyone and anything at all  
That's loved by you.

---from "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown"

LET'S LOOK AT AN ICON... OR RATHER,

LET'S "SEE" AN ICON:

*By Fr. Jonathan Bannon.*

*Note: Fr. Jon is one of our newer priests and is currently pastor of Christ the Savior Church, Rockford, Illinois. More to the point, he holds a degree in Fine Arts and so offers us a unique perspective on Icons.*

### **An Icon of Theophany:**

Composition: This is a very telling icon, we see the largest figure is Christ. An ancient technique at giving prominence and a type of focal point to the most important part of a composition, Christ being baptized.

To emphasize this everyone is leaning towards Him, angels ready to minister and John the Baptist is reaching in a most humble manner preparing to baptize as the Lord desired for our sakes.

**His Gaze:** Though Christ is being baptized we see He is very focused, not surprised by the temperature of the water, rather he is looking to heighten the warmth of our hearts so He gazes forward staring straight ahead at us the participant desiring we too enter and receive the Holy Spirit, that we too turn back (repentance) as John preached who prepared His way and as Christ continued as He began His ministry bringing His Light into the World.

**Theology in color:** We see the very story without words but rather a rich symbolism in color and gesture. Look for an ax in the icon below, what is this about? In Matthew we hear St. John's preaching, "And now also the ax was laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." (Matthew 3:10) Christ is the Vinedresser, The True Vine, (He has many titles) He is God with Authority, He is merciful and a Judge! So He comes telling us how to be with Him, how to be Blessed as we hear in the Sermon on the Mount! If we do not repent (Turn around, change direction) as St. John tells us, if we do not bear good fruit in our lives for Christ then we too will be cut down and cast to the fire, withered like the fig tree.

There are variants to this icon with figures in the water that are fleeing from Christ. Explore other images online and there is a great website to learn more of how to enter the atmosphere of the icon here:

<https://iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/01/06/baptism-of-christ-the-theophany-icon/>

