



Weekly Bulletin - Sunday, August 11, 2024

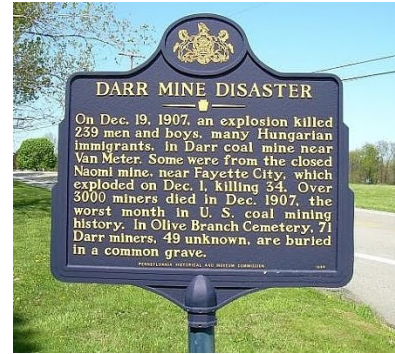
Schedule of Services and Events

Date	Time	Service/Event
Saturday, August 10	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, August 11	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, August 11	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
<i>Sunday, August 11</i>	<i>Following Liturgy</i>	<i>Akaphist to St. Nicholas</i>
Tuesday, August 13	6:00 p.m.	Vespers (Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord), Lesser Blessing of Water, and Blessing of honey
Thursday, August 15	6:00 p.m.	Service of Supplication
Saturday, August 17	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, August 18	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, August 18	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, August 18	Following Liturgy	Potluck luncheon
Sunday, August 18	1:00 p.m.	Vigil - Transfiguration of Our Lord
Monday, August 19	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Monday, August 19	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - Transfiguration of Our Lord, Blessing of fruit
Wednesday, August 21	6:00 p.m.	Service of Supplication
Saturday, August 24	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, August 25	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, August 25	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
Sunday, August 25	Following Liturgy	Moleben for the beginning of the school year
Tuesday, August 27	6:00 p.m.	Vigil - The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Wednesday, August 28	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Wednesday, August 28	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy - The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, Blessing of flowers and herbs
Friday, August 30	5:00 p.m.	Panikhida
Friday, August 30	6:00 p.m.	Vespers - St. John of Rila

Saturday, August 31	5:00 p.m.	Great Vespers, Confessions
Sunday, September 1	8:40 a.m.	Hours
Sunday, September 1	9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy

The 1907 Miracle of St. Nicholas in Pennsylvania at Darr Mine

On 20 December 1907 The New York Times front page reported details of a mining disaster in Pennsylvania. Although hundreds of coal miners had lost their lives, the newspaper carried the unusual headline of The Pittsburgh Press: 'St Nicholas Feast Saves the Russians'. And other headline captions at the time included: Pittsburgh Gazette Times: "Majority of Victims Americans - Foreign Workers Lay Off to Go to Church and Escape Death"; Pittsburgh Dispatch: "Many of the victims are English-speaking men. Foreigners escape owing to religious holiday." What was the story behind these headlines?



On 19 December 1907, at least 239 coal miners were killed in an explosion at the Darr Mine in Van Meter, in the south-western corner of Pennsylvania. This remains the fourth worst coal mining disaster in U.S. history and everyone inside the mine was killed. However, it could have been much worse - the number of victims could have been double. The death toll was not some 500, because 19 December is St Nicholas' Day [Old Calendar] and some 250 faithful Carpatho-Russian immigrant coal miners had taken an unpaid day off work to celebrate his memory. For even the greedy coal mine owners, who otherwise had virtually complete control over the miners with their threats of dismissal, knew that they could not force Carpatho-Russians to work on 19 December, St Nicholas Day. For St Nicholas is the patron saint of shepherds, one reason why he has been the Carpatho-Russian patron saint for centuries, and thanks to his intercession, men and boys, some perhaps as young as ten, survived to become fathers of hundreds and grandfathers of thousands. Had it not been for this miracle, more than a thousand would have been widowed and orphaned, which in 1907 would have meant financial destitution, for there would have been no assistance from companies or government agencies in those days.

Newspaper reports of the 11:30 am explosion that took place in the middle of the church service record that there was a terrible noise and the ground shook, as if there were an earthquake. Immediately everyone realized that there had been an explosion in the mine and they rushed to help find survivors. Although it was against the few regulations that did exist at the time, the mining company had allegedly interconnected more than one mine, which devastated a large area of the mine on both sides of the river. In the end, many bodies could not be identified and were placed in a mass grave, and although probably higher, the official death toll was 239.

Life was very harsh for the Carpatho-Russian miners. They were worked like animals in the bowels of the earth, exploited by 'the English' - anglophone American businessmen and coal barons, and often worked seven days a week. At that time the Carpatho-Russians were supported in their labour struggles by a priest, Fr (now St) Alexis Toth (1854-1909). Fr Alexis not only supported every labour struggle and won the respect of the people, but supported the immigrants in other ways too. For, having been forced into outward Uniatism in their homeland by the threat of starvation in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, from the 1880s on the Carpatho-Russians had been forced into emigrating by the cruel Hungarian Roman Catholic authorities in their homeland. In America they struggled to retain their identity and traditions. However, as a result of the religious freedom they found in North America, many of their priests and tens of thousands of people had since 1892 been returning to Orthodoxy to become part of the Orthodox Church in North America. And it had been St Alexis who had led the way. Indeed, the Roman Catholic Uniats were as a rule anti-labour and supported their Irish masters. The Carpatho-Russian miners remained close to the Church and many later revered the memory of the Russian Tsar-Martyr, Nicholas II, under whom all Orthodox in North America had been united.

In response to the return to Orthodoxy of the exploited and misled Carpatho-Russians, in 1907 the Pope of Rome was so worried that he appointed a Bishop Soter Ortinsky as 'Greek Catholic' bishop for America. It is notable that Rome had never made any similar effort to

provide for a specific nationality that had emigrated to America. However, Ortinsky was not even Carpatho-Russian, but a Polish Galician, and he had virtually no authority. In reality, relatively few Uniat churches and priests remained under the authority of their local Roman Catholic bishop, who typically had limited knowledge of the Orthodox rite, let alone Orthodox teaching, and refused to recognize married priests. The 1907 miracle in Pennsylvania, which took place according to the Orthodox calendar date of St Nicholas Day, only served to hearten the exploited Carpatho-Russian immigrants who had returned to Orthodoxy, confirming them in their choice of Faith and encouraging others to do likewise in later years.

19 December 2007 was the centenary of the Miracle of St Nicholas at the Darr Mine and at 7 pm an Akathist to St Nicholas was celebrated at the St Nicholas Orthodox Church at Jacobs Creek close by. A new troparion and kontakion were composed for the occasion and new content describing the miracle of the saving of the coal miners were added to the service.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Protected by your prayers, O Holy Father Nicholas we children of those saved offer praise to you. Beneath your holy omo for you covered your people as they labored beneath the hills of a new land. Cease not to intercede that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion in Tone Three

You were truly the protector of your people, O Holy Nicholas for those who zealously celebrated your holy feast. You preserved them from danger and death as they labored beneath the earth. Therefore with one voice we ask you to continually pray for us that we may obtain mercy from Christ our God.

Source:

<https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/12/1907-miracle-of-st-nicholas-in.html>

Dormition Fast Begins August 14

As we approach the blessed season of the summer Pascha, our Lady's Dormition Fast and her Feast, I encourage you all to take time to consider making a family plan for how you will approach this time of fasting, alms, and prayer. Begin emptying your refrigerator and pantry of the heavier more tasty foods, and planning a more simplified grocery list to truly take up the blessed fast. Discuss how you may set aside monies for the sake of Christ and your neighbor. Ask God to make a need known to you so you may rush to fulfill it as aide to someone else. Look over the service schedule and commit to attending the Great Feastal days here in August, and making a firm commitment to fulfilling your daily prayers. Have you read something encouraging lately? Maybe you can read through a holy and edifying work from one of our saints. Let's make some effort so that we may attract the Grace of the Holy Spirit so that He may free us from every stain, and lead us to Him, and every Heavenly Virtue. - Fr Daniel

Potluck Luncheon

A potluck luncheon will be held after Liturgy on Sunday, August 18, 2024. If you would like to bring food or drinks, please sign up [here](#).

Update: Building Fund Projects

As you may have heard, there is water leaking in the front wall of the church, mainly in the choir loft area. Since this is a high priority project, the sidewalk project will need to be deferred.

The masonry restoration work is scheduled to begin in early October. It is expected to take about two weeks and should not interfere with any church services. The work includes repointing the whole front wall, repointing the cupola, repointing 11 foot sections on each side extending from the front, repointing the chimney, applying water repellent to the repointed areas, repairing two windowsills, and repairing the steps. The total cost will be about \$29,000-\$30,000. A down payment of \$7,000 was made to schedule the job. The building fund currently has a total of about \$17,500 after making the down payment. The balance of \$22,000-\$23,000 will need to be paid after the job is complete.

Please consider donating to the building fund to help us reach this goal of \$5,500. To donate specifically to the building fund, please use the special blue envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the building fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your

donation accordingly.

Future projects include repairing the plaster on the walls in the choir loft and repointing the other brick walls of the church over the next 1-3 years.

Psalter Prayer Group

The Psalter prayer group is currently in need of one more person. If you have not participated in the past, this is how it works. Each person is assigned a different kathisma to start. Each person reads one kathisma each day in sequential order, along with opening and closing prayers and prayers for the living and departed. Between the group, the entire Psalter is read each day. The Psalter prayer group usually takes breaks after Great Lent and the Nativity Fast.

If you are interested in joining the Psalter prayer group, please see [Svitlana Breniser](#). You will need to provide her with your baptismal name and 10 names for the prayer list (living or departed).

Church Cleaning

Cleaning Schedule

The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2024 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Volunteers are needed to clean the church for the following weeks:

- August 11 - August 17

If you are interested in cleaning the church during any of these weeks, please reply to this email or see Alexandra Salaneck.

Cleaning Groups

In order to schedule the church cleaning weekly, we are looking for *2-3 additional cleaning groups* to join the cleaning rotation and clean on a regular basis (about once every 7-8 weeks). Volunteers are assigned a specific week and can choose which day to clean the church during the week. Volunteers can form a standalone cleaning group or team up with another family. If you are interested in helping, please see Alexandra Salaneck or reply to this email.

Prayer List

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Catechumens

Cipolle, Kate
Rogozin, Daniel
Rogozin, Ryelle
Rogozin, Danielle

To add a name to our prayer list (health, newly departed), please reply to this email or see Fr. Daniel.

August Celebrations

Name Days

- August 4 - Madeline (Jean) Salaneck

Birthdays

- August 14 - Kate Cipolle
- August 17 - Ksenia (Oksana) Gerz
- August 23 - Svitlana Breniser

Many Years! Многая Лета!

If you would like to be included in the parish directory of commemoration dates (birthdays, name days, and marriage anniversaries), please submit the information in this [form](#). If you have questions, please see [Anastasia Lutcza](#).

Reminders

Online candle stand: Candles and vigil lights can now be ordered [online](#) to be lit at the next service.

Online donations: One-time or recurring donations to the church can be made [online](#). The recurring option is a convenient way to donate and also helps to better plan our budget.

Benevolent fund: The benevolent fund was established to help those in need. To donate specifically to the benevolent fund, please use the special pink envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the benevolent fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Building fund: The building fund was established to save for future building projects. To donate specifically to the building fund, please use the special blue envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the building fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Rectory fund: The rectory fund was established to save for a future rectory close to the vicinity of the church. To donate specifically to the rectory fund, please use the special yellow envelopes that are available at the candle stand, select the rectory fund for [online](#) donations, or otherwise designate your donation accordingly.

Church cleaning schedule: The church cleaning schedule for the second half of 2024 is available [here](#). A [cleaning list](#) and other helpful information is also available for those volunteering.

Church calendar: You can subscribe to the church calendar (add the church calendar to your mobile device or calendar application) by using these links: [Services](#) and [Events](#).

* **Save the date - Picnic:** A church picnic will be held following Liturgy on Sunday, September 15, 2024, at [Breneman Park](#) pavilion, 2914 Reedy Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. More details to come.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser: Our parish is participating again in the annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. The shopping passes are \$5 and are good for 25% off almost all purchases made on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at all Boscov's locations. Our church keeps 100% of the shopping pass proceeds. If you would like to purchase a discount shopping pass or help sell them, please see Jean Salaneck.

A Parish of the Moscow Patriarchate | Reading, Pennsylvania | Founded in 1905
Priest Daniel Meyer, Rector | 909-286-0814 | frdanielmeyer@protonmail.com

Donate

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church | 241-243 South Third Street | Reading, PA 19602 US

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