

Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation Newsletter

Published for those interested in preserving the memory of St. Nicholas Church, N.S.

Cornerstone at St. Nicholas Memorial Site by Dan Cessna

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The State Route 28, East Ohio Street project is rapidly nearing completion – after years of construction, work is in the final stretch. Traffic is currently shifted against the hillside to allow the completion of the final section of roadway, nearest the railroad. This current phase will conclude in November when we expect to complete the roadway and re-open all 4 lanes of traffic. At that point, final work will be completed on the walkway. Work is underway on the artwork, with glimpses of the history of this area being



Photo by Steve Willing

revealed for future generations to enjoy. This artwork, using a sandblasting technique, will feature six images, most significantly, the St. Nicholas Roman

Catholic Church, North Side. It is expected that some work on the parking area and landscaping may need to be completed in the spring, depending upon the weather of early winter. We are very pleased with how all of the work is coming together and anxiously look forward to opening the road and walkway for many to enjoy for years to come.

Javor Pittsburgh Ensemble at St. Nicholas Day Banquet by Bill Vergot

A new Folk Ensemble established at Javor Croatian National Home will be featured at the St. Nicholas Day Banquet on Saturday, December 6, 2014, at Javor Croatian National Home, Pittsburgh.



The Javor Pittsburgh Ensemble, consisting of men and women, was established to satisfy a need of Javor members and friends to foster and promote our Croatian heritage. Many of the members have been active in other

Adult Ensembles, and you will be treated to the sounds and voices of this new Ensemble directed by Kara Turkovich Ecker, a graduate of the Duquesne University Tamburitians.

To assure you see and hear this new Ensemble, make reservations to attend the St. Nicholas Day Banquet on the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6 at Javor National Home, 805 East Street, Pittsburgh 15212. See page 3 for more details.

TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, DEC. 14

As many of you will recall, the Festival of Lessons and Carols was a beautiful, long-standing, traditional Advent Service at St. Nicholas Church, North Side.

Even though we are no longer able to celebrate this tradition at St. Nicholas Church, N.S., the Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish (MHN), 1700 Harpster Street, Pittsburgh PA 15212 (Troy Hill).



Former organist and members of the St.

Nicholas Church choir have joined the MHN choir directed by Carol Spehar.



You are invited to attend this joyful and uplifting service on **Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 2 PM in Most Holy Name of Jesus Church.**

Take some time away from the hustle/bustle of the holiday season and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas with beautiful hymns and biblical readings of the birth of Christ. You'll be glad you did.



A small reception will follow the Service in the school hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

Pennsylvania Historical Marker Dedication Set for Spring 2015

by Steve Willing

A **Pennsylvania Historical Marker**, designating St. Nicholas R.C. Croatian Church, North Side, as "The First Croatian Parish in the Western Hemisphere," will be installed and dedicated in April 2015. The marker will be located at the edge of the memorial seating area, in the same place that the main altar of the church was situated and will be accessible by way of a sidewalk trail, that begins at the Penn Brewery parking lot.



The marker is significant to the North Side neighborhood and to all the Croatian ancestors who built the church.

A dedication ceremony is being planned by PCHF to recognize the marker that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has awarded to PCHF in memory of St. Nicholas Church.

The marker pays tribute to all the Croatian immigrants who helped build this beautiful and unique church with their nickels, dimes, and quarters, and the sweat off their backs.

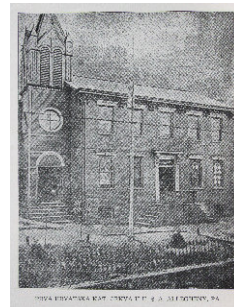
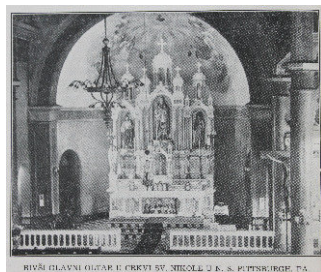
More detailed information will be released as it becomes available. Please plan to attend next spring.

Website

The PCHF website, www.stnicholasns.org, is continuously bringing you up-to-date news on the St. Nicholas Memorial Site, socials, banquets and other events.

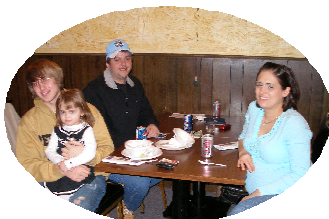
And now, you can even purchase the new *Note Cards*, *Christmas Post Cards* and a *Brass Ornament of St. Nicholas Church, N.S.* through our website (see the Insert for detailed information). The website provides "color" photos of the PCHF Newsletters cards and the ornament.

The Gallery tab opens the door to a multitude of St. Nicholas Church photos.. As photos become available, they are added to the website. If you ever wondered what the very first St. Nicholas Church looked like or the original altar, both of these photos are now posted in the Gallery's Church Interior Album and Church Exterior Album.



Be sure to bookmark the St. Nicholas site on your computer and encourage your friends and family to browse this site and to share the information through email and Facebook.

FAMILY PHOTOS FOR ST. NICHOLAS WEBSITE



One of the most enjoyable ways to reminisce the past and appreciate family treasures is through photographs. If you visited the www.stnicholasns.org website, you may have previewed the Gallery and browsed through the Albums containing photos of the Church, the Grotto, the Church being moved in 1921, and photos from the early 1900s, and much more. In addition to this wonderful collection of historic photos, we would also like to include a new Album called "Church Parishioners". PCHF has many photos of our North Side parishioner's families, but our goal is to gather one (1) photo from each St. Nicholas N.S. Church family.



We ask that you send us your photo. It can be a photo of an individual or of several family members, but the photo should have been **taken at a St. Nicholas Church, N.S. event** -- either a mass or an extra-curricular church event i.e. a Church

picnic, St. Nicholas Day Banquet, Memorial Day Service, May Crowning, a St. Nicholas wedding, Grotto photos or professional parish family photos taken in the St. Nicholas Lyceum. We are collecting only Church related photos.

Digital photos are preferred as they can easily be uploaded to our website. Simply e-mail a digital photo to our PCHF pchf@stnicholasns.org address. A regular print can be scanned and become digitized. Just send your photo to PCHF, P. O Box 5812, Pittsburgh, PA 15209, along with your name and address and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. After your photo has been scanned, it will be returned to you.

It is our hope that seeing old photos will bring much joy to our website viewers and bring back memories of happy times at St. Nicholas.

So don't be left out, send in your photo today.

St. Nicholas Day

Banquet

Special Visit by
Saint Nicholas

Delicious, full hot buffet
dinner prepared by
Nova Cafe Catering

"Special Guest"

DAN CESSNA, District Executive,
PennDOT, District 11

Fabulous listening and dancing
pleasure by:
The Mikey Dee Band

Special performance by
the "newly formed"
JAVOR PITTSBURGH ENSEMBLE

Saturday,

December 6, 2014

Javor Hall

805 East St., Pittsburgh PA 15212

\$20.00 - per adult

\$10.00 - per child

5 - 12 yrs. of age

Cash Bar

Doors open at 5 p.m.

Buffet at 6 p.m.

St. Nicholas Church, N.S.
NOTE CARDS, CHRISTMAS POST CARDS &
BRASS ORNAMENT
will be sold.

The Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation (PCHF) and Javor Hall will again jointly sponsor the Saint Nicholas Day Banquet. Everyone is invited to join us!!

All tickets must be paid in advance by December 3, 2014

Please make checks payable to PCHF and mail to:

PCHF

c/o Bernice Goyak

P. O. Box 5812

Pittsburgh, PA 15209

For more information, call 412 821-1106



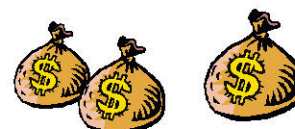
St. Nicholas 3 Bags of Gold Fund by Jack Schmitt

The 3 Bags of Gold Fund was initiated in 2009 for the purpose of helping to offset on-going PCHF expenses. The three-dollar (\$3.00) donation requested from each person of Croatian ancestry coincides with the feast day, December 6, of our patron saint and the three bags of gold St. Nicholas anonymously gave to a peasant man to help his three daughters gather a dowry and avoid being sold into slavery.

Many donors have contributed to this Fund in memory of their deceased loved ones each year. Others have sent in donations to acknowledge living, family members. Whatever your intention, this is a wonderful way to let your family know that you remember them and to pay tribute to the person, St. Nicholas.

If enough people donate only \$3.00 per Croatian in their family or as a memorial each year, PCHF can afford to: update the www.stnicholasns.org website; keep you informed of St. Nicholas events with our newsletters, cover Javor Hall rental donations, liability insurance costs and most recently, cover the cost of the Pennsylvania Historic Marker and the costs of the interpretive panels that will be installed at the St. Nicholas Memorial site.

Please use the form below when sending in your donation. Thank you.



3 BAGS of GOLD FUND

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____ Date _____

Family members or friends whom you are sending your memorial donation for:

Send your suggestions and/or donation to:

Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation, P. O. Box 5812, Pittsburgh, PA 15209

PCHF is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit, tax exempt organization

Honoring Veterans of St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Parish N.S.



As we remember veterans on Veterans Day, we ask that you keep our Veterans in your thoughts and prayers this November.

Over the past decades, our St. Nicholas North Side Parish has honored veterans in several ways. We installed a brass panel in the church vestibule near the Pieta, a panel that contains the names of those from the parish lost during



World War II. Today that plaque in honor of the men of the parish stands at the St. Nicholas Cemetery on Hahn Road east of Babcock Blvd. When the Lourdes Grotto was constructed from 1944-47, Mrs. Mary Crnkovic donated the grotto altar in honor of her son Walter, the first member of the parish killed during the Second World War.



For the past thirty years, families of the

parish have remembered veterans on Memorial Day weekend. This past Memorial Day, May



26, we honored members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives for their country during wartime and all men and women who served their country at home and abroad. Gathering at the St. Nicholas Cemetery on Hahn Road, friends of St. Nicholas and family members of those who we remembered that



Honoring Veterans of St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Parish N.S.

day joined in singing "God Bless America". The group heard reflections from retired military officers and roll call



that included the names of each serviceman from the St. Nicholas North Side parish who had died in service to their country, as a retired enlisted soldier rang the large cemetery bell one time for each individual. Our honored veterans lit a candle for each service person listed during



the calling of the names.

During a moment of silence in memory of those who gave their lives, those present express their own prayers for deceased family veterans and those in service around the world

today.

During the past few years the attendance has been very strong, and we appreciate the participation of all those who have attended. We recognize the friends of Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation who have prepared the grounds, placed the candles, and distributed flags each Memorial



Day. We extend sincere appreciation to the pastors, guest speakers and participants who have honored our family members who put their lives on the line to safeguard our freedom.



Prayer For Veterans

Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best When they were called upon to serve and protect their country.



We pray that you will bless them Lord, for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedom, our safety and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made and for their many contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, and we are proud of them. We pray that you will watch over these people and bless them with peace and happiness. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

**For those who have fallen and
And for those who stood to fight
May God bless and keep you safe
Throughout each day and night.**



Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation

P. O. Box 5812

Pittsburgh, PA 15209-0812

Address Service Requested

How To Reach Us

E-mail us at **pchf@stnicholasns.org**

You may call any of the following Executive Committee Members by telephone as shown below

Bernice Goyak	412 821-1106
Bill Kurtek	724 625-9145
Susan Petrick	412 821-3725
Pat Polaritz	412 231-4324
Francis Schmitt	412 322-8223
Jane Sestric	412 231-8134
Bill Vergot	724 941-8673
Steve Willing	412 527-5764

UPCOMING PCHF EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL MEETING

All are welcome to attend!

Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 P.M.

JAVOR HALL

805 EAST STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

St. Nicholas Note Cards, Christmas Cards & Brass Ornament



Note Card - Vertical Church

Exterior - 5" x 7", \$2.00 + P&H



Note Card - Church Interior

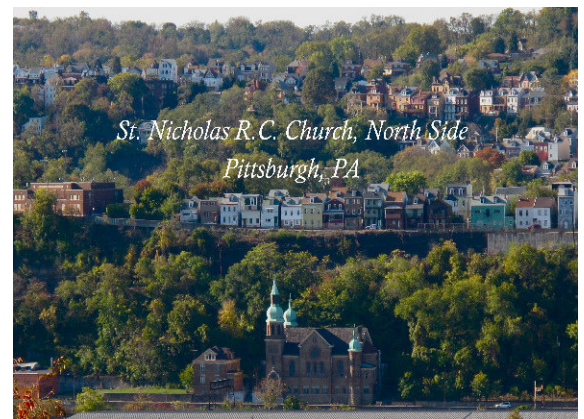
5" x 7", \$2.00 + P&H

Please see our
website to order



Note Card - Horizontal Church

Exterior - 5" x 7", \$2.00 + P&H



Note Card - Troy Hill

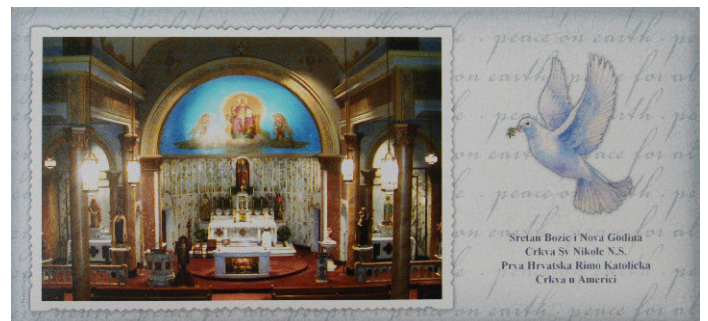
Hillside & Church - 5" x 7", \$2.00 + P&H



Christmas Post Card

ENGLISH version

4" x 8-1/2" \$1.00 + P&H



Christmas Post Card

CROATIAN version

4" x 8-1/2" \$1.00 + P&H

Cards, Ornament
and PCHF Newsletters
Can Be Viewed On Our
Website,
www.stnicholasns.org

Brass Ornament

1-1/2" x 3"

\$12.00 + P&H

