

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

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Pastor – Very Rev. R. Michael Zak, Cell phone:(412)-804-8865

Deacons: Fr. Deacons Artemius Stienstra & Dr. Marc Wisnosky

Sub- Deacon: Andrew Halapin, Jr.

Cantor/Choir Director: Danielle Bartko

Weekday Cantors – Donald Bodnar Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 5; No. 12

Sunday, March 26, 2017

4th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS (OF THE LADDER)

Service of the Third Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Hierarchical Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Tone: 7

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 99-101; 183-184 / Red Book: 114-117; 206-207

Bulletin Sponsor: **Bill Dunn's** 32nd Birthday, offered by Larry & Carole Dunn, parents.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: **+George Sukal's** 3rd Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord, offered by Cheryl & Michele.

Birthday prayers intoned for: **Nicholas Kerber**, offered by the Obringer Family; for: **Mary Waselko**, celebrating 95 years of life (March 25th), offered by her 3 Children, 9 Grandchildren, 24 Great Grandchildren & 12 Great, Great Grandchildren; for: **Cheryl Tomko** (March 28), offered by sister, Michele; for: **Mikey Dzvonic**, who will be 3 yrs. old today, offered by his "Pap" (Michael Dzvonic).

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+George Sukal** on the 3rd Anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord offered by Pam, Jim & Colin Kimbrell.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at St. Michael's Church in Rankin, PA. Rev. Fr. David Urban will deliver the homily and a Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards.

Wednesday, (March 29)... 9:00 A.M. Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Anna Lippa**, offered by herself.

7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (3-hr. fast of food or drink before partaking of Holy Communion).

Thursday, (March 30)... 9:00 A.M. Panachida service conducted for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, **+Margaret Rusnak**, offered by herself.

Friday, (March 31)... 7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Most Holy Mother of God.

Saturday, (April 1)... 11:00 A.M. to 12 Noon: Hearing of Confessions.

7:00 P.M. Vespers.

Sunday, April 2, 2017

5th SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST: SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Matins: 8:00 A.M.

Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Tone: 8

Gospel: Mark 10:32b-45

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104; 185-186 / Red Book: 117-119; 207-208

Panachida service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, **+Ann Opsitos & +Martha Opsitos**, offered by the Kline Family and the Opsitos Family.

3:00 P.M. Pittsburgh Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church in North Side Pittsburgh, PA. Very Rev. Robert Prepelka, Dean of the Pittsburgh District, will deliver the homily and a Lenten meal shall be served to all worshipers in the parish hall, afterwards.

4:00 P.M. Prayer Service led by our beloved Orthodox Hierarchs at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 419 South Dithridge Street in Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA.

5:00 P.M. Syrian Relief Dinner. Tickets: \$50 Adults; \$20 for Students (Age 7-18); Free for Children 6 years and under.

Mark 9:17-31 –

Math. 17:14-16 – Sickness in Scripture is often connected to demonic activity. By **kneeling**, this father shows humility, but he lacks faith. While the **disciples** also lacked faith (v. 20), Christ rebukes the man for placing the blame on the disciples when it was his greater lack of faith that prevented the boy's healing. In effect, Jesus defends His disciples in front of the multitudes, but later rebukes them privately (vv. 19-21), teaching us that we ought first to correct people in private.

Math. 18:15-17 – Church discipline is based on mutual correction in three expanding stages. Sin and correction are to remain private unless the offender refuses to repent. All correction must be done with great care and humility, with the highest concern being the salvation of the offender. Nevertheless, correction must take place so that the sin does not spread to others as well.

Math. 17:19-21 – St. John Chrysostom notes this rebuke is directed at the nine disciples who could not cast out the demon, whereas "the pillars" of faith – Peter, James, and John (Gal. 2:9) – were not included in the rebuke, as they had been on the mountain with Christ (v. 1).

This kind (v. 21) refers to all powers of darkness, not simply those that cause a particular illness. The banishment of demons requires **faith** (v. 20), **prayer**, and **fasting** (v. 21), for there is no healing and no victory if spiritual warfare without all three. Beginning with the Didache, the Fathers have taught that both the person in need of healing and the person performing the healing must believe, pray, and fast.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS are 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

EMERGENCY SICK CALLS can be made anytime. Please notify your Pastor when someone is taken to the hospital; Sacred Scriptures remind us to call the presbyter to anoint the sick.

MARRIAGES are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Consult the Pastor at least 6 months in advance and before wedding reception plans have been made. Marriages cannot be celebrated during Lent or Advent, or on Fridays.

BAPTISMS are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 A.M. Two God-parents are required; at least one of whom must be an Orthodox Christian by Faith, and the other a practicing Christian. An infant's first or middle name must be a saint's name.

CHURCH FUNERALS are provided for parishioners who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations to the Parish. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

FOLLOW OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE! Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddioocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddioocese>

WIN A WEEK'S STAY AT CAMP NAZARETH DURING THE DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMPING

PROGRAM! The Junior A.C.R.Y. members of our parish are selling raffle tickets to award a young person of your choice a free week at our Diocesan Youth Center near Mercer, PA during the Deaneries camping sessions in the months of July & August, this year. Purchase a ducat for \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20 and increase your odds of winning this fantastic prize to reward a child "the time of his or her life" in an environment where youths become "friends, forever"!

INFORM MICHELE TOMKO AND SIGN-UP FOR A.E.D. TRAINING! 8-10 of our parishioners have already expressed an interest in this medical course of procedures. Sign your name to the designated list in the parish hall and notify Michele Tomko of your interest in participating in these nurse-directed sessions.

COME, HELP US MAKE PIROHI ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28th AT 6 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL! See Jean Colantoni during today's coffee social or call 412-491-7090 and let her know if you are able to help.

TROPAR OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER – TONE 1

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body! * You were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John! * You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, * healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. * Glory to Him who gave you strength! * Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! * Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

SYRIAN RELIEF DINNER & PRAYER SERVICE – SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2017 / SERVICE: 4:00 – LENTEN DINNER: 5:00 AT ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL IN PITTSBURGH, PA!

The church is located at 419 South Dithridge Street in Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213. Tickets are \$50; Students (age 7 – 18) \$20; Children 6 and under free. Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Syrian Relief Fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Children's room available. Tables for groups of 8-10 only. Purchase tickets by March 31 from Robert Ruschak, our parish IOCC representative.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! A variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities are available with Jefferson Hospital. Whether you would enjoy working directly with patients in the surgery center, volunteering in the Gift Shop or behind the scenes in an office, volunteering at Jefferson is a wonderful way to bring happiness into the lives of others. To learn more, contact Janet O'Brien at 412-469-5885.

NEWS FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS BOOKSTORE! Lenten and Paschal devotionals, icons and gifts are available for all ages. New books for children have arrived. At the sales' table, special items are greatly reduced and are priced as marked. Volunteers are always welcomed at the bookstore. See Cheryl or Stephanie for details. Stop by today! Thank you to all who supplied the play area with furniture and toys – especially to Anna and Kataryna for their donations. Remember, the play area is closed during the Divine Liturgy and other services, but open during socials. Thank You, Stephanie Kennedy.

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