

# Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



## American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

903 Ann Street

Homestead, PA 15120

Rectory Office Phone: (412) 461-3264

Church Office & Auditorium: (412) 461-9437

Web Site: [www.stnichomestead.org](http://www.stnichomestead.org)

E-mail Address: [STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STNICKHOMESTEAD@GMAIL.COM)

E-mail Address: [frmzak@gmail.com](mailto:frmzak@gmail.com)

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

Attached to St. Nicholas Church: Rev. Fr. Dr. Marc Wisnosky

Deacon: Fr. Deacons Artemius Stienstra

Sub- Deacon: Andrew Halapin, Jr.

Cantor/Choir Director: Danielle Bartko

Assistant Cantors: Donald Bodnar, Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 9; No.

**Sunday, January 24, 2021**

## 33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

Chanting of the Theophany Canon: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13;

Resurrection Tone: 8

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 102-104; 150 / Red Book: 117-119; 169-170

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**Wednesday, (January 27)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +Eva Scalleta, offered by Father Michael & Pani Deborah Zak.

**Saturday, (January 30)...** 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of God's departed servant, +John Lasobik, offered by Dorothy Kapolka and +Eleanor & +Elmer Konar.

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**Sunday, January 31, 2021**

## 34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour: 8:20 A.M.

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16;

Resurrection Tone: 1;

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 81-83 / Red Book: 95-99

Panachida Service conducted for the repose of the souls of God's departed servants, +Michael & +Margaret Baka, offered by Margaret Ann Dietrich and Michael Baka (Daughter and Son).

**Matthew 4:12-17 – 4:15** – The term **Galilee of the Gentiles** indicates that many non-Jews lived in the region. Having a mixed population, it was not considered a genuinely Jewish land, even though many Gentile residents had converted to Judaism during the Maccabean period. Because many of the Jews there had been influenced by the Greek culture and its customs, they were generally considered second-class citizens by the Jews of Judea.

**4:16** – **Darkness** means ungodliness. Here it represents the Gentiles' unawareness of God and the Jews being under the shadow of the Old Covenant. To sit in darkness means to be overcome by spiritual ignorance. The **great light** is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**4:17** – Christ's first word, like that of John the Baptist, is "**Repent.**" **Math. 3:1-3** – The preparation for the Savior's ministry begins with John the Baptist's call to **repent**. Repentance, which accompanies faith, is a total about-face. The word in Greek literally means to change one's mind or more generally, to turn around. Repentance is a radical change of one's spirit, mind, thought, and heart, a complete reorientation of the whole of one's life. It is the necessary first step in **the way of the Lord**. It is accompanied by the confession of sins and the act of baptism (v. 6), and is followed by a life filled with fruits worthy of this change (v. 8). The **kingdom of heaven** is present wherever Christ is.

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**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.

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

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## THE YEAR OF GRACE OF THE LORD

By a Monk of the Eastern Church

### Meditation on Epiphany

What does the public manifestation of Christ consist of? It is made up of two aspects. On the one hand, there is the aspect of humility represented by the baptism to which our Lord submits; on the other hand, there is the aspect of glory represented by the human witness that the Forerunner bears to Jesus, and, on an infinitely higher plane, the divine witness which the Father and the Spirit bear to the Son. Every manifestation of Jesus Christ, both in history and in the inner life of each man, is simultaneously a manifestation of humility and glory. Whoever tries to separate these two aspects of Christ commits an error which falsifies the whole of spiritual life. I cannot approach the glorified Christ without, at the same time, approaching the humiliated Christ, nor the humiliated Christ without approaching the glorified Christ. If I desire Christ to be manifested in me, in my life, this cannot come about except through embracing Him whom St. Augustine delighted to call *Christus humilis*, and, in the same upsurge, worshipping Him who is also God, King and Conqueror. This is the first lesson of Epiphany.

The aspect of humility in Epiphany consists of the fact that Our Lord submits to John's baptism of repentance. John himself refuses to begin with, but Jesus insists. Obviously Jesus had no need to be purified by John, but this baptism conferred by the Forerunner, this baptism for the remission of sins, was a preparation for the messianic kingdom; and Jesus, before proclaiming the coming of this kingdom, wished to go through all those preparatory phases which He Himself was to complete. Being Himself the fulness, He wished to take into Himself all that was still incomplete and unfinished. But, in receiving the baptism of John, Jesus did more than solemnly approve and confirm a rite before transforming it – more than complete the imperfect into the perfect. He who was without sin made Himself the bearer of all our sins, and of the sin of the whole world; and it is in the name of all sinners that Jesus made a public act of repentance. Moreover, Jesus wished to teach us the necessity of penitence and conversion; before we can draw near to Christian baptism itself, we must receive the baptism of John, that means we have to go through a change of spirit. We must experience real contrition for our sinfulness. As far as we ourselves are concerned, repentance is the aspect of humility in Epiphany. And here we go beyond the limited horizon of John's baptism and remind ourselves that we have been baptized in Christ. Christian baptism has washed and purified us. It has abolished original sin in us and made a new creature of us. We were probably infants when we were baptized; baptismal grace was then a divine response, not to our personal request, but to the faith of those who brought us to baptism and

also to the faith of the whole Church when it accepted us. This baptismal grace was, then, in some way conditional; it needed us, of our own free choice as we grew up and became conscious, to confirm the act of our baptism. Epiphany is, above all, the feast of baptism, not only of Christ's baptism, but also of our own. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to renew in spirit the baptism that we received, and to revive the grace which was conferred on us. For the sacramental graces, even if interrupted and suspended by sin, can become alive in us again, if we turn sincerely to God. At this feast of Epiphany, let us ask God to wash us again – spiritually, not actually – in the waters of baptism; let us drown the old, the sinful, creature in them, for baptism is a mystical death; let us cross the Red Sea which separates captivity from freedom and let us immerse ourselves with Jesus in the Jordan to be washed not by the Forerunner, but by Jesus Himself.

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**ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY – ANNUAL MEETING – 2<sup>nd</sup> NOTICE!** The St. Nicholas Cemetery Association will hold its 2021 Annual Cemetery Association Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:15 A.M. All Cemetery Association members and any parishioners are encouraged to attend.

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**HOME BLESSINGS WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR, BUT I DO HAVE A GIFT FOR YOUR RESIDENCE AT THE CHURCH!**

At the direction of His Eminence , Metropolitan Gregory, Protopresbyter Frank P. Miloro, Chancellor, has written the Bishop's directive regarding Home Blessings this year. His Eminence strongly feels that our priests should NOT ENTER parishioners' homes for the traditional Blessing. Parishioners should be advised that Home Blessings will not be held this year but will resume in the traditional manner next year. Even though your pastor will not be physically bringing to your home this year the "blessing of the Jordan River", he will gift faithful members with individual holy water bottles (1 (one) per residence) for their home with the attached prayer of home blessing. These attractive containers will be available any time following the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Theophany, Thursday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IS SLATED FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY!**

Even though this date falls on Valentine's Day, you can treat your "sweet heart" later that Lord's Day. First, come to church for heavenly worship, then, participate in the business of the parish at her yearly session, including the election of officers, which will take place in the parish hall.

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**BROWSE OUR GIFT SHOP AND BOOK STORE AFTER THE LITURGY THIS MORNING!** Proceed downstairs after services and view the wonderful display of icons, spiritual books, religious jewelry, inspirational cards for various occasions and other attractive items. Opened for just 30 minutes, purchase that unique religious gift for family, relatives and friends at the feast of our Lord's glorious Baptism in the River Jordan (Theophany) this year.

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**SENIOR A.C.R.Y. CHAPTER NEWS!** The Sr. ACRY would like to Thank everyone who purchased the Gertrude Hawk Candy. Even with facing the challenges of the Corona Virus, the candy sale was very successful. Thank you all for your support, kindness and generosity. May God Bless You and Keep you in His care. Also, Attention: ACRY MEMBERS: The 2021 Sr. ACRY Dues are due by: December 1, 2020. Please contact Michelle Hubert. Thank You!

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**EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!** We are looking to become more connected as a parish by sending out important announcements, updates, death and sickness notices, and other pertinent information via email. Our high school Sunday School class has volunteered to collect these email addresses. If you have not already provided your email address, we invite you to do so. Email addresses can be submitted by writing it on the sheet in the vestibule, giving it to any high school Sunday School student or by emailing Bob Bartko at [RABartko@gmail.com](mailto:RABartko@gmail.com). Thank you for your participation.

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**TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGIES OR COME TO CONFESSION...** make reservations to share in "Heavenly worship" at St. Nicholas Church on every Lord's Day during the liturgical year. Phone (412-461-3264) or e-mail ([fmzak@gmail.com](mailto:fmzak@gmail.com)) Fr. Michael to indicate your and your family's intentions to attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Father Zak will hear confessions following any listed divine services. Or, you can call or e-mail your pastor for an appointment at the church for the Mystery of Penance, with the safe distancing practice in place. You must wear a mask before entering the church.

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](http://www.saintnicholasorthodoxchurch.com)